

Critic

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STUDENTS DEMAND APOLOGY // LEGAL ACTION AGAINST SDHB // PRAYER ROOMS OPEN // BALTIMORE RIOTS // EU ANIMAL TESTING // LIBERIA: EBOLA FREE // UK ELECTIONS // AUCKLAND RATES // POLITICS // NEWS IN BRIEFS // SPORTS

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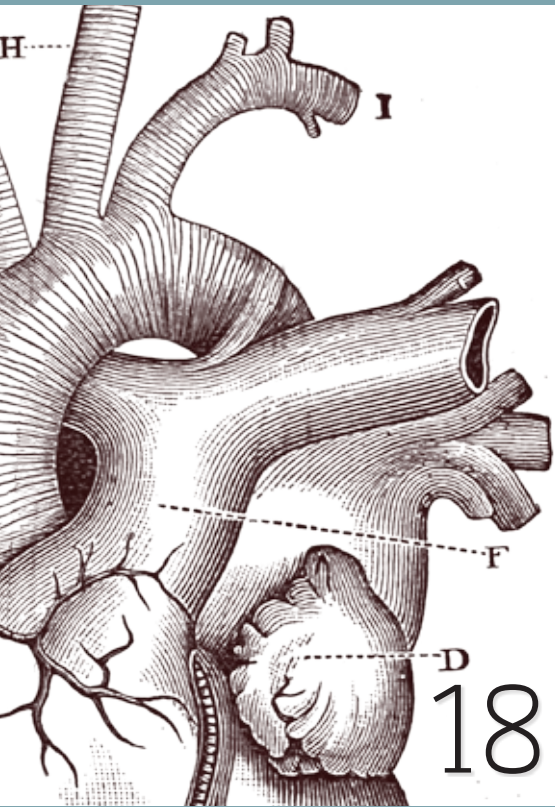
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FEATURES

18 THE BIGOT ISSUE

Writing from experience, Anthony Gordon gives us a personal account of the extent to which homophobia still exists in our city. Bigotry towards homosexual behaviour still appears to be a bigger issue than many of us realise.

BY ANTHONY GORDON

22 BEYOND THE BINARY

With recent headlines hailing Bruce Jenner's interview as an "Ellen" moment for the trans* community, we take this opportunity to educate and explore the world of sexuality and gender.

BY LYDIA ADAMS

26 LOVE LETTERS TO THE CLOSET

Several students tell Critic their personal accounts of how they 'came out' about their sexuality, what the reactions were like, and why they decided to come out when they did. For all of them, being true to themselves still remains the right decision.



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STEREOTYPICAL POISON

» WE'RE BIGGER THAN THAT

At the time we sent this issue to print, 3300 people had signed a petition demanding an apology from TVNZ for its "biased report on Dunedin students" during the Sunday show over a week ago.

TVNZ won't apologise. What it's done is no different to what we all do.

For one, the reporter did seek students' viewpoints, she did speak to the university and she did interview OUSA President Paul Hunt. The story just failed to portray what they said in full. Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne's voice was faded out whenever she said anything of substance. Hunt's interview was not shown. And the students she showed were hardly representative of the thousands currently cramming their way into exams. Either way, the fact that some Dunedin residents are bothered by students' behaviour is true. It is also true that some students are bothered by some residents' behaviour, namely the shitty landlords some of us might have, or those residents who still hurl abuse like that Anthony Gordon describes in his feature, "The Bigot Issue".

But why are students getting so worked up this time? Every year the media put out something about how crazy Dunedin students get. Every year the media portray us as the party central of New Zealand. Every year reports of students misbehaving elsewhere in the country are ignored.

But this year, Sunday's report seemed just a little too much of an attack on the University of Otago and its students. No Otago student wants their degree tarnished with such a reputation as was portrayed in the programme. No student wants to be grouped together with a small number of aggressive drunks.

The media have always perpetuated stereotypes but it's high time they started trying to fight them. If the story is about Hyde Street, keep it about Hyde Street. If the story is about the Beehive flat, keep it about the Beehive flat.



If the story is about the dangerous drinking culture of New Zealanders, make it about the dangerous drinking culture of New Zealanders.

And if the issue is about the drinking culture of students at this university, then where's the spotlight on other New Zealand universities? Three residential colleges at Victoria University have been put on an alcohol ban this year. Just last week there was a news story in Christchurch about residents throwing bottles at police. The residents were clearly on a student street in Christchurch, yet little attention was paid to this.

Clara Watson is a student here and wrote a letter to TVNZ, which included the line, "Your inclusion of the carpet advertisement, like your continuous showing of Hyde Street footage, is once again stereotyping. I hardly see how a staged advertisement can be believed to be an accurate portrayal of student living. It's like viewing Shortland Street as being an accurate portrayal of what working at a hospital is like." She went on to say, "I resent my life being stereotyped by images of a once-a-year event and a staged carpet advertisement."

Stereotyping all students as losers of society who abuse the city is generalising from a few idiots. Doing this lowers every other hardworking student's self-esteem and, time and time again, it's been proven that lowering self-esteem fosters prejudices.

Media — instead of focusing on that one difference we have from the other residents of Dunedin (we study, they don't), why don't you give students a voice to fully express that they want the same as residents? They want to keep Dunedin the vibrant city it is. They want it to be a safe place to drink, walk and to be whoever they want to be.

Unfortunately, we still aren't escaping this need to categorise people into boxes. We are not all the same. We are all individuals with different thoughts, beliefs, behaviours, gender identities and sexualities.

The media should be helping us break stereotypes, not enforcing them.

JOSIE COCHRANE
CRITIC EDITOR

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Students Demand Apology for Sunday Broadcast

» SHOW MAKES STUDENTS LOOK LIKE "DESTRUCTIVE MONSTERS"

BY LAURA MUNRO

T VNZ's Sunday episode, "Party Central", has received backlash from students after it aired on 10 May.

The episode showed two residents, one living in close proximity to the 17-man flat "Backpackers", sharing their views on how University of Otago students interact with the community. Comments focused on the student drinking culture.

Two students were given the chance to speak, one from the Backpackers flat and one from Castle Street's "Beehive". Individuals have since come out saying that the two were portrayed unfairly and were not a fair representation of the majority of Otago students.

Former student and Dunedin real estate agent Tyler McCorkindale said the Beehive is "one of the worst examples for the media to interpret as a standard student flat".

"If they had chosen the average student, they may find they spend a bit more time in the library, have hobbies they enjoy doing sober and, who knows, there might even be a dishes roster they adhere to," said McCorkindale.

Asked why the Beehive was chosen, Sunday producer Jane Skinner said this was not planned. Skinner said the Sunday team drove

down Castle Street during filming and saw the flat "with its front windows smashed out and cans all over the front" and asked the residents to film inside.

A petition was created almost immediately after the episode aired calling for TVNZ to "publicly apologise for their biased report on Dunedin students". The original aim for the petition's creator was 500 signatures. At time of print, there were 3300 signatures.

OUSA President Paul Hunt was interviewed by Sunday, but was contacted afterward and told they would not be airing his segment. Skinner said the reason Hunt's interview was left out was "not about the content of what he said" but "about the delivery". Skinner said this was "of no service to the student population and not articulate or sufficient for a TV broadcast".

Hunt, however, said the reason was "that it was a predetermined story where they deliberately cast students in a negative light. The only opportunity students got [to defend themselves] was when [Sunday] barged onto their private property and stuck a microphone in their face." Hunt spoke of the issue in the University Council meeting on 12 April, where he received praise from council members.

Skinner denies the claim that there was a

premeditated story, and said she specifically included the bottle-buy-back scheme to show a "positive OUSA initiative".

Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne was briefly interviewed by Sunday, though she has since released a statement saying the episode "was not representative of our entire Otago student culture".

"[The university] understands that these types of television current affairs shows are based on visual images and video footage more than any real in-depth debate that fairly represents all the aspects of such issues," said Hayne.

Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull, who was also briefly interviewed, said his view of students was "not fully" portrayed on the episode. Cull said students contribute to Dunedin "intellectually, culturally, financially, recreationally, socially and in many other ways. They are an essential part of what makes our city what it is and have been for decades."

Numerous students have made official complaints to TVNZ following the episode. One student, Clara Watson, wrote in her complaint: "This report is absolutely appalling in both its bias against students and the negative generalisations it made. There was extreme exaggeration and inaccuracy in both editing and

overall reporting. Skinner, however, said she "never sought to portray 'all' Otago students in [the] story ... We made it clear that we were talking about a minority of students and several times we referred to 'a small sub-group of the community that's been given carte blanche' and 'there's a few people who give them a bad name'." Skinner said: "Some viewers don't appear to have heard the distinction we were very careful to make and to include in our story."

When asked why the episode has received more backlash than similar coverage Otago has received in the media, student Joel MacManus said this is due to "the patronising tone and the attacks that call our character into question".

"The annual Hyde Street piece on the news normally covers the story with an even hand, and shows [OUSA volunteers] R U OK handing out food and looking after people. This piece didn't make any attempt to make students look like anything but destructive monsters," said MacManus.

The episode featured coverage of the annual Hyde Street party, which has been run by OUSA for the past three years. Before OUSA's involvement, the event was run without supervision.

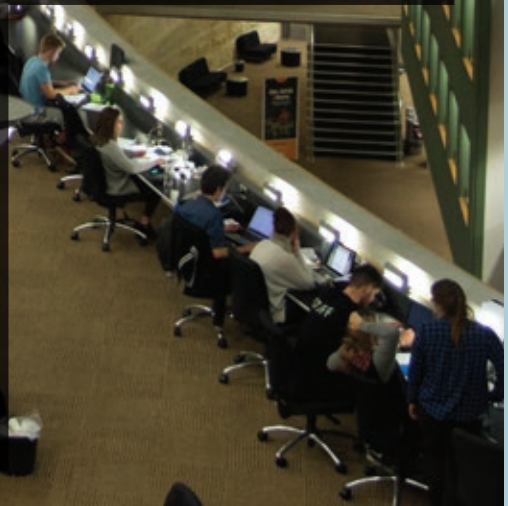
Hunt said earlier this year that OUSA spends \$22,000, collected through ticket sales, on health and safety at the event. Most of this, 45 percent, is spent on security; 27 percent goes towards traffic management, infrastructure and fencing; 30 percent on the St John Ambulance Service; and eight percent on food. OUSA also has volunteers providing water for the events' attendees.

Around 3500 people attended this year's event, and Director of Student Services Karyn Thomson said "only six students were sent to the proctor's office" for their behaviour on the day.

The University of Otago Proctor Simon Thompson said "nobody was on roofs, there were no thefts or burglaries ... no assaults, no fires, no glass" at the event. "The media loves numbers,

and they will trumpet the fact that 12 people got arrested ... but out of 3500 ... I think only half of those were students," said Thompson.

Jason Guthrie, Area Commander for Otago Coastal, said "the vast majority of students are a pleasure to deal with". Guthrie said the stereotype that all Otago students are out of control when intoxicated is "not true" and "the reputation of the majority continues to be tarnished by the immature minority". ○



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UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

Union Prepares for Legal Action against SDHB

» DECISION TO OUTSOURCE IN BREACH OF TWO LAWS

BY BRIDIE BOYD

On 7 May 2015, the Southern District Health Board (SDHB) made a decision that all food would be outsourced through the Compass Group. As a result, the Service and Food Workers Union (SFwu), which had put forward a counter proposal, has announced it will take legal action against the SDHB.

The SFwu claims that, by making the decision to outsource, the SDHB has breached two laws. The first is a breach of the Applicable Collective Agreement – this is the agreement negotiated on behalf of the employees by the relevant union, in this case the SFwu. The second comes from Section 103A of the Employment Relations Act, which states that an employer must take several steps before letting workers go, including properly investigating options and consulting with the employees.

The SFwu has said that it does not feel the SDHB has taken their counter proposal seriously or that it listened to the concerns of the community. Anna Huffstutler, SFwu organiser, said the union "realises the board is under a lot of financial pressure," however, "there is still a lot of financial unknowns as far as the contract goes ... We feel the counter proposal was glossed over and not fairly looked at."

The SDHB chairperson, Joe Butterfield, said it was made very clear at the board meeting that the agreement between the SDHB and the Compass Group was made in December. This was "subject to certain conditions", including that the board "consider the outcome of the submission process and be satisfied on some financial conditions".

When asked whether he believes the decision to outsource will result in job losses in the

community, Butterfield said: "We will work hard with Compass to look after the staff the very best we can but it is inevitable that there will be changes in staffing levels."

With the Compass Group agreement, food will be sourced locally and prepared in the hospital kitchens. Butterfield said the Compass Group "has committed to sourcing 95 percent of menu items from local suppliers, where the food items are available and/or produced in NZ".

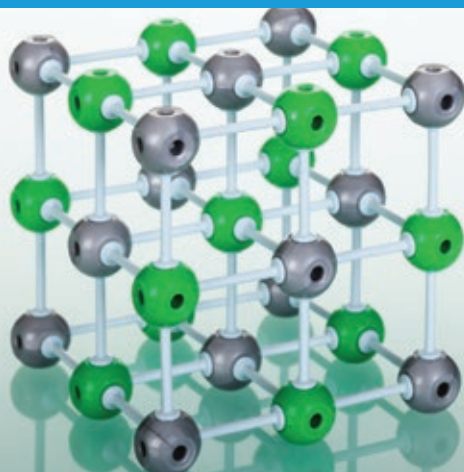


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Prayer Rooms Open – Hallelujah!

» "SUCH SPACES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR MENTAL AS WELL AS SPIRITUAL HEALTH"

BY JOE HIGHAM

The University of Otago opened and blessed two new prayer rooms last week, upstairs in the University Union Building at a ceremony attended by people of many different faiths. The rooms replaced the previous rooms underneath the Archway building, which were in use for seven years.

The new set-up comprises one space exclusively for the Islamic community; it faces Mecca and is split into two rooms by a curtain. This is to adhere to Islamic rules on prayer with the opposite gender. The second is the University Prayer and Mediation Room. Greg Hughson, University Chaplain, said this room is for everybody.

The university's only pre-requisite for the rooms is little-to-no noise. In an information sheet, Hughson writes: "Prayer and meditation will be either silent, or expressed very quietly so that no one in the study area next door can



hear any noise emanating from the prayer and meditation rooms."

The prayer rooms are part of the university's commitment to being a "healthy university". Houston said the rooms are "important for people of all religious faiths, and for people who identify with no particular religion".

"In such a busy and stressful environment such spaces are essential for mental as well as

spiritual health"

The university has said that, in the future, it envisages a "purpose-built multifaith centre on campus". It is proposed that this centre would have separate rooms for faith groups, a kitchen and a large central area.

"In the meantime, let's value, appreciate and cherish what we have been given and take good care of these spaces." ●

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Baltimore Declares State of Emergency

» RIOTS TURN VIOLENT AFTER DEATH OF FREDDIE GRAY

BY **OLIVER GASKELL** /

The United States city of Baltimore has declared a state of emergency in response to ongoing riots involving violent clashes, looting and arson. The riots began on 18 April after the death of Freddie Gray, an African American who passed away from injuries sustained during his arrest.

Gray, 25, was placed under arrest for allegedly carrying an illegal switchblade and died from spinal cord injuries after falling into a coma.

Cellphone footage of Gray's arrest shows him being forcibly dragged into a police van while screaming that he was in pain. Police have said that Gray's fatal spine injury occurred after this point, though this claim has been disputed by protesters.

It has been proven that the arresting officers forced Gray into a van with no seat belt and failed to provide him with necessary medical attention that could have saved his life. Gray's death has been ruled a homicide, and the six officers involved in his arrest have been charged with murder and manslaughter.

After Gray's funeral service on 28 April, protestors began throwing bottles and bricks at riot police. Shops were looted and vandalised, and police vehicles were set alight. Around 20 officers have been injured at the hands of citizens, and 250 people have been arrested.

Shortly before the attacks, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency. Over 5000 National Guard Troopers were sent to Baltimore "to protect the lives and property of citizens," Hogan said in a press conference. Officers are using crowd-control methods such as teargas grenades, rubber bullets and pepper balls.

The riots have led to Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake declaring a city-wide night curfew from 10pm to 5am. Rawlings-Blake said in a press conference she is "profoundly disappointed" to see "the violence in our city".

"I am at a loss for words," said Rawlings-Blake. "It is idiotic to think that by destroying your city you're going to make life better for anybody."

At the same conference, Jason Downs, a representative of Gray's family, said the city of Baltimore "[has] an opportunity in front of the entire world to show that we can break the cycle of violence".

"We can be leaders, let us police ourselves. We cannot give the Baltimore police department any reason to respond to violence with more violence," said Downs.

Keystone pharmacy was one of the hundreds of stores vandalised in the riots. The store's owner, Dwayne Weaver, told the Baltimore Sun his "heart sank to the floor" when he found the pharmacy scattered in glass. Looters had emptied containers of medication as well as stealing various products.

"We saw how much we'd invested in the neighbourhood and how much the patients invested in us ... for me as a business owner, I came back for the good patients. Those weren't the ones vandalising the store."

Riot damage is so far estimated at \$9 million. ●

Calls for EU to Ban Animal Testing

» PETITION SPARKS PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION

BY **ANGUS SHAW**

Following a petition with 1.2 million signatures, the European parliament met on Monday 11 April to discuss the possibility of banning animal testing throughout Europe.

At the meeting, Stop Vivisection – which created the petition and is actively against animal testing – put forward its case for the EU to permanently ban the practice. The group called for the European Commission to present a proposal that did not include animal testing, claiming it is both scientifically flawed and ethically wrong.

The group argues that animal testing hinders potentially more effective alternative biomedical research methods and is hazardous to humans and the environment. As of 2011, 11.5 million animals were used for testing across Europe, with a reduction of half since 2008 according to EU data.

The proposal has caused alarm within the scientific community, which since 2010 has worked to regulate animal experimentation in the EU and has already significantly reduced the amount of animal testing. Researchers fear that the petition could pressure the European Union to scrap the directive which, in their view, could potentially halt research into life-saving medicine as well as damage the EU's economic prosperity.

Nancy Lee, Senior Policy Adviser at the Wellcome Trust, a UK-based biomedical research charity, told the Guardian: "Without the directive, research using animals would be blocked and that would have terrible consequences ... New medicines for Alzheimer's, heart disease, cancer and other conditions could no longer be tested. Similarly, new drugs for animals would also be blocked."

The parliament hearing was organised by the agriculture commission in association with

the environment, industry and petition committees. Parliament listened to speeches from the initiative's organisers, representatives from Americans for Medical Advancement (AFMA) and the Humane Society International, as well as virologist Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, the 2008 winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

European citizens' initiatives must be backed by at least 1 million signers and 7 of the 28 UN member states to be considered by the European parliament. Initiatives that have successfully made it to parliament since 2012 have included calls for better water supplies and the use of human embryos in research.

The commission currently has until 3 June to issue a formal reply outlining whether it will move forward with legislation to ban animal testing altogether. ●

Liberia Declared Ebola Free

» NATION DECLARES PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN REMEMBRANCE

BY **AMBER ALLOTT**

On Saturday 9 May the World Health Organisation (WHO) officially declared Liberia free of the Ebola virus. It had been forty-two days since the last Ebola victim in the West-African nation was buried.

During the year-long epidemic, there were 4769 probable, confirmed or suspected Ebola deaths in Liberia alone, according to statistics released by the WHO. This is more than in any other country in West Africa.

Symptoms of the disease include vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, rashes and bleeding. During the height of the outbreak, between 300 and 400 new cases were reported each week. No hospital beds were available for the treatment of victims anywhere in the country.

The Monday following the announcement was declared a public holiday, and across the country parades, music and dancing filled the streets. People waved banners and signs that said, "Goodbye Ebola", "We will always overcome" and "Liberia is free".

Despite the celebrations, officials are acknowledging that the relationship between the people of Liberia and the military (A.F.L.) desperately needs to be repaired.

During the outbreak, West Point, one of the capital city's most densely populated slums, was placed under quarantine. The night-time burials of Ebola victims by their families, as well as violent mobs attacking and looting Ebola clinics, led President Sirleaf to announce military isolation of the area. This trapped tens of thousands of citizens in the West Point area, where the situation rapidly escalated when the military opened fire on crowds of protesters.

Sirleaf has since acknowledged that the quarantine was a mistake. In a speech at Monday's festival, Sirleaf said the same citizens "protected us in those difficult days when the sirens were screaming and the telephones were ringing and people were dying".

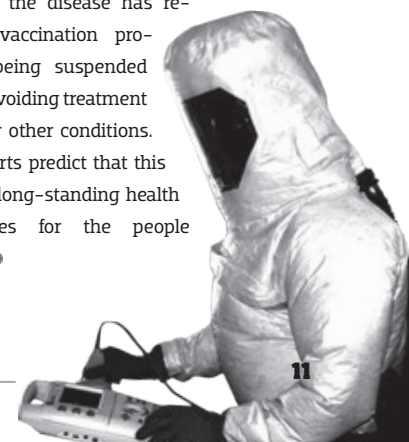
During his speech on Armed Forces Day, human rights lawyer and former Minister of Public

Works Samuel Kofi Woods urged the military to mend relations with the citizens of West Point.

"The A.F.L. must return to West Point, this time armed with shovels, diggers, pens, paper, and engage in community waste management and sanitation, clean-up exercises, adult literacy, sporting activities and other initiatives aimed at restoring the broken relationship."

The WHO noted in a press release that Ebola could still travel back to Liberia through its borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Fear of the disease has resulted in vaccination programmes being suspended and locals avoiding treatment at clinics for other conditions. Health experts predict that this could have long-standing health consequences for the people of Liberia. ●





Super-City Gets Super Rates

» "WE JUST DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD ENOUGH PLAN"

BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

Auckland Mayor Len Brown revealed last week that Aucklanders should expect rates increases as part of a new budget aimed at tackling transport congestion. The transport levy passed by the Auckland Council has rates increasing by an average of 9.9 percent throughout the supercity.

The increase in rates came after central government refused to support the policy. The Auckland Council originally intended to implement either a toll or a petrol tax, both of which must be legislated through parliament.

However, the government has openly condemned the policy. Transport Minister

Simon Bridges appeared on *The Nation* last week to explain the government's position. He said: "We just don't think it's a good enough plan for Auckland and for Aucklanders. It doesn't actually generally deal with congestion across Auckland in the next thirty years."

According to Bridges, the council's plan to increase rates does not allow any more spending on transport. "Over the last three years they've spent just under 2.5 billion dollars," he said. "In the next three years they will spend about 1.9 billion dollars, that's including about half a billion from the [transport] levy."

The rates increases have cemented public dissatisfaction with Brown. Brown

had promised to keep rates at a similar level to the inflation rate, likely to be around 2.2 percent. The mayor has disregarded this election promise in his new transport policy, which sees rates increases of up to 12 percent for some Auckland suburbs.

Auckland Councillor Dick Quax opposes the council's decision. Appearing on the *Paul Henry Show* last week, Quax openly criticised Brown and the council's transport plan. "Len [Brown] has got to go back to his original election promise, which was to cap rates at 2.5 percent," said Quax. ●

UK Labour Party: Worst Result in 28 Years

» LITTLE SAYS RESULT IS "DISAPPOINTING"

BY **HENRY NAPIER**

On 7 May the UK Labour Party experienced a dismal defeat at the hands of the Conservative Party in the general election. The party had its worst result in 28 years, winning only 232 of the 650 seats in parliament.

New Zealand Labour leader Andrew Little said he was disappointed at the result, following his UK visit last month where he met with Labour leader Ed Miliband. "It's disappointing from a fellow Labour Party point of view," said Little, "but there are a whole heap of issues in that election that I'm not sure I necessarily understand myself."

The defeat has come as a surprise to Labour supporters following a tight race reflected in pre-election polls. Heading into the election, the polls suggested Labour would be neck and neck with the Conservatives, polling at 46 and 45 percent.

Little pointed out that polls were inaccurate and suggested they likely shaped the result of the election. "I just think part of the hoodwink was that these polls were telling us what was likely to happen and they can't possibly do that because they're just not detailed enough and sophisticated enough to pick up what's happening electorate by electorate," said Little.

David Clark, Dunedin North MP and Labour spokesperson for Economic Development, said: "It is disappointing that the UK Labour Party hasn't been returned to government after a long break."

Clark said the New Zealand Labour Party has close ties to the Australian and UK Labour parties. "It's interesting for us to see across to the other side of the world the exercise they're going through in order to see what we can learn from it as well."

Miliband resigned the leadership following the election. ●

My Opinion: Henry's word Who Will Replace Key?

Rumours of Prime Minister John Key's potential departure from the leadership were sparked after #ponytailgate came to life and ended very quickly. However, almost immediately, speculation flew over who might rise to the top of the party if the prime minister were to step down.

Last week, Housing Minister Paula Bennett appeared on TV One's Q+A to plug National's new housing plan. The same week, Simon Bridges appeared on TV3's *The Nation*. The significance is that both these ministers are a shoe-in to one day be the National Party leader.

Further rumours had former minister Judith Collins as a potential suitor; however, this is extremely unlikely. Collins has very little public appeal following her blunders last term, notably her relationship with Cameron Slater, which was publicised in *Dirty Politics*. Collins will no doubt return to a cabinet (or shadow cabinet) position one day, but to gain the support of the caucus she would need to prove she could get traction with voters. That will never happen.

It seems slightly too coincidental that both Paula Bennett and Simon Bridges would put their heads up so quickly after being plugged as the future leaders of National. However, they both have important portfolios, so it's more than likely this was planned well before #ponytailgate.

As for who could be leader, well, John Key certainly isn't going anywhere. Pulling ponytails hasn't hurt him yet. This is undoubtedly a tribute to his strength with voters, and undoubtedly why everyone was so curious about when he may be out of the picture. ●

Opinion: New Zealand Becoming a Republic

» TO BE OR NOT TO BE

BY TIM LINDSAY

Over the last few weeks, we have seen the birth of a royal baby, Prince Harry visiting our shores and a formal process to decide whether to change New Zealand's flag. In light of these events, it may be worth considering the state of New Zealand's constitution and whether we are making a slow march towards a republic or whether we will continue as a constitutional monarchy.

The flag change process is reported to cost around \$25 million, so converting to a republic is likely to cost a great deal more. In that sense, our current system is the cheaper alternative, and also one with a proven record of delivering peaceful democratic outcomes. If the classic adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" applies, then surely a transition to a republic would need strong arguments in its favour.

For a start, a republic or aspects of republicanism may better reflect New

Zealand's independent identity in this century. Having the Queen of England as our head of state can seem an archaic arrangement, especially when her power is conventionally constrained to a delegation to the governor-general, who acts on the advice of cabinet anyway. Embracing republicanism would be embracing the future but perhaps not a "new" New Zealand; it may simply reflect the constitutional and political realities of the last few decades. However, detractors would warn against abandoning the symbolic representations of our history as a nation, much like arguments made in opposition to changing the flag.

Prime Minister John Key's views on New Zealand republicanism are well documented. He is a firm monarchist but believes that a transition to a republic is inevitable. Labour leader Andrew Little expressed his views at Waitangi this year, saying that New Zealand's head of state should be a New Zealander, perhaps a

president-type figure. He also proposed that a more extensive form of Māori self-governance should be explored. Little later said that these are his personal views, not those of his party.

The current system, based on constitutional conventions, allows the government to conduct its affairs unconstrained by interference from the executive branch. This mirrors what a president-style head of state — which is what we would have if New Zealand were a republic — would provide.

This begs the question, is constitutional reform still only a "personal issue" for New Zealand citizens and its MPs? Could the flag change, in fact, be a false-flag operation that hurries along a transition to republicanism? These questions will be answered one day, but, for now, it seems the republicans aren't banging down the doors of Government House just yet. ●

News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



world watch

- 1 ITALY**

A football team made up entirely of African migrants has won promotion from the bottom tier of Italy's league system. The Koa Bosco team won a play-off game that put them at the top of their local championship in the southern Calabria region. The team was formed in 2013 by a Catholic priest and is managed and coached by local Italians.
- 2 GLASGOW, SCOTLAND**

A Glasgow man who bet £30,000 on the Conservatives to win a majority in the general election has won £210,000. The pensioner placed the bet 10 days before the vote at Ladbrokes with odds of seven to one. Many punters backed a hung parliament and lost when the Conservatives won a slim majority.
- 3 SINGAPORE**

The prime minister of Singapore has published code on his Facebook page for the program he wrote to solve Sudoku puzzles. He revealed the side project while launching the government's new technology initiative to encourage people to code.
- 4 FRANCE**

A Chinese company has paid for 6400 of its employees to go on a four-day holiday to France. Tiens Group President Li Jinyuan booked 140 hotels in Paris and more than 4700 rooms in Cannes and Monaco for their trip. Media have reported the group is expected to spend €13 million.
- 5 VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES**

A Virginia man accused of robbing a bank posted two videos and a photo of the incident to Instagram. Dominyk Antonio Alfonsea walked into a TowneBank in Virginia Beach and passed the teller a note to "please" hand over US\$150,000 in bonds. In an interview, the man said that asking for money is not a crime.
- 6 MOSUL, IRAQ**

The Islamic State has reopened a luxury hotel for its commanders. The hotel, which has 262 rooms, was closed down last year when IS seized large parts of the country. Photos posted online show people cleaning windows, tending to a garden and painting, while the black flag of IS can be seen raised over the hotel grounds.
- 7 ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA**

A Chinese wind chime festival has had to be cancelled after tourists stole almost all of the chimes. Trees were decorated with more than a thousand of the musical ornaments, but days after the festival opened most of them had been looted by visitors. The festival was due to last for the whole of May but was forced to close early.
- 8 OITA, JAPAN**

A Japanese zoo has apologised for naming a baby monkey Charlotte after complaints that it was disrespectful to the British people. A zoo official said that the "name was publicly solicited and Charlotte suddenly became the most popular choice — with 59 votes out of the total 853 — after the British baby princess's name was announced".
- 9 GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA**

Actor Johnny Depp and his wife risk having their dogs put down after being accused of not declaring their Yorkshire Terriers to customs officials when they flew into Queensland by private jet last month. #WaronTerrier

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Grapevine

"I am not trying to fool anyone because my double will always identify himself as my double. If singers and comedians do it, why not? I used to send representatives to events I couldn't attend and the idea of a double emerged two years ago as a joke."



A Mexican state politician, **Renato Tronco Gomez**, is looking for a body double so he can be in two places at once and cope with his "many obligations". The contest winner will have to study the way he speaks and acts; however, engagements like attending the state legislature and sleeping with his wife will be off limits.

"Never before has our great nation, the United States of America, and our great state of Nebraska been besieged by sin. I'm sixty-six years old, and I never thought that I would see the day in which our great nation and our great state of Nebraska would become so compliant to the complicity of some people's lewd behaviour."

A Nebraska woman, **Sylvia Driskell**, has attempted to have homosexuality legally defined as a "sin", but her court case has been thrown out. Federal judge, John Gerrard, found that her claim could not be decided by the court, saying: "The court may decide what is lawful, not what is sinful."



"We call on North Korea to refrain from actions that further raise tensions in the region and focus instead on taking concrete steps toward fulfilling its international commitments and obligations."



- **US State Department official** North Korea has announced that it successfully launched an underwater ballistic missile from a submarine, raising concerns about its military capabilities and raising tension in the region. The North Korean state media agency said that the test "proved and confirmed that the ballistic missile from the submarine met the requirements of the latest military science and technology".

"They drove into a thoroughfare 500m away. They parked the car and fondled him to get an erection. His penis could not get erect. Then they forced him to drink an unknown substance from a bottle. This got him aroused quickly even though he was still scared and didn't want to have sex."

- **Constable Mncedi Mbombo**. A South African man was allegedly taken hostage by three women in a black BMW and then sexually assaulted by his captors. Every time the man came, the women put the semen inside different vials and stored them in a cooler box. After the ordeal, they abandoned the man on the side of the road.



"Why hasn't anyone said, 'Fuck, yeah, the guy is dead!' Because everyone is scared. Everyone is afraid that if they say something like that, they might get into trouble."



- **Amos Yee**. A 16-year-old Singaporean man has been jailed for celebrating the death of the country's former prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew. Yee appeared in court in shackles and pleaded not guilty to the two charges of spreading obscene images and offending a religious group. Yee compared the former prime minister to Mao Zedong, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin.

FACTS & FIGURES



Einstein's brain

Researchers have found out that it was **15% wider** than normal.

1 in 5

of the world's doctors are Russian.

Monopoly money

More of it is printed in a year than real money throughout the world.

More than 1000

Number of chemicals in a cup of coffee.

One quarter

of the bones in your body are in your feet.

Having at least four

orgasms a week can reduce a man's chances of getting prostate cancer.

Camels

Camels chew in a figure-8 pattern.

203

Number of ways to make change for a dollar.



Tackling Homophobia

BY SPORTS EDITOR DANIEL LORMANS

A recent multinational study has confirmed what we all knew anyway — that there is still a massive problem with homophobic behaviour in sports. Australians are leading the way in tackling this issue, and there are calls for New Zealand to follow suit.

The Australian Sports Commission has sponsored the Anti-Homophobia and Inclusion Framework for Australian Sports, which has been embraced by all of the governing bodies of the top Australian sports leagues. The framework aims to "ensure the eradication from sport of all forms of homophobia, including discrimination, harassment and bullying towards gay, lesbian and bisexual people" and recommends a code of conduct and a variety of measures for sportspeople not adhering to its guidelines.

Several players have recently run into trouble under these new rules, most notably New Warriors signing Isaac Luke, who was fined \$10,000 for an angry Instagram rant where he called a group of trolling Bulldogs fans "poof-ters" among various egregious grammatical errors. He has deleted the post. Luke was sticking up for a Rabbitohs fan who was beaten up during the game, but he also has the Instagram name of "bullyluke14", which sends quite the mixed message.

In a more serious incident, Waratahs flanker Jacques Potgieter was also fined \$10,000 after several on-field incidents of sledging players by calling them "f**ots" in a game against the Brumbies. David Pocock, an official ambassador of the anti-homophobia framework, complained to the referee, which led to Potgieter's penalty and his inevitable grovelling for forgiveness on social media.



Potgieter had previously completed the ARU "Integrity Training" and has since undergone additional "awareness training" as part of his disciplinary process. Pocock congratulated him for owning up and doing his bit to make amends when he helped at training with the Sydney Convicts — an inclusive and openly gay local rugby team.

Unfortunately, Pocock copped some flak for "not addressing the issue privately", with some conservative media saying it "set a dangerous precedent" and a former player suggesting that his outspoken stance has ruined his chances of captaining the Wallabies again — something that coach Michael Cheika quickly rubbished.

An incident a bit closer to home came during the Highlanders vs. Sharks game in Dunedin a few weeks ago when veteran play-by-play man Tony Johnson made a crude remark about Olympic gold medallist Bruce Jenner over his recent "coming-out" as transgender when the camera focused on some lads in the Zoo wearing dresses.



You could give the goofy commentator a pass for an attempt to include a topical pop-culture reference, but it does highlight the default attitude that many people have which is to make a joke of these situations rather than treating them as the important social issues that they are. While the issues of gender and sexual preference shouldn't be conflated, it is interesting to note that the Australian

anti-homophobia framework does not specifically mention transgender people in its mission statement.

Homophobic discrimination is a worldwide problem and is arguably even more systemic elsewhere than in Australia and New Zealand. In 2014, American football player Michael Sam became the first openly gay player to be drafted into the NFL when he was signed by the Missouri Rams. Sam courted a lot of unnecessary controversy for kissing his boyfriend during a live interview. A gay kiss and an interracial gay kiss as well, caused many heads to explode in the more conservative and secessionist-minded areas of the United States. No surprises that the notoriously homophobic Westboro Baptist Church staged a protest at an event attended by Sam.

Despite the initial positives of this story, Sam ended up being dropped from the Rams before being picked up and then dropped again by the Dallas Cowboys — all without playing a regular season game. He went on to appear on *Dancing with the Stars*. We don't know whether Sam's public coming out had anything to do with

him being cut. Maybe the teams felt the PR and internal politics would be easier to handle without having an openly gay player or maybe he just didn't make the grade — despite being named best defensive end in the 2013 All-American College team. You can decide for yourself what really happened.

A BBC survey of 3000 18 to 29-year-olds found that 49 percent of young people think it is acceptable to use the term "that's so gay" in the context of referring to something negative. This is not dissimilar to what Luke and Potgieter said, and is possibly even worse as it is not targeted at a specific person but is rather a broad-brush defamation of a large part of society.



Luke and Potgieter were made examples of to help fix the problem by first admitting that there is a problem. However, it should be noted that (unlike in New Zealand) same-sex marriage is still outlawed in Australia despite several attempts to pass positive legislation in this area over recent years. Can you take the anti-homophobia framework as seriously when this is taken into account?

Unfortunately, attitudes in sport (or in schools, the military, corporations) reflect society as a whole. Although great progress has been made on equality and acceptance of the LGBT community, the world has still not ridden itself of other entrenched racial and gender discrimination.

Professional athletes are highly influential role models, and initiatives like the anti-homophobia framework introduced in Australia should go a long way to help tackle this problem. The sportsfield is an ideal place to take another positive step on the road to equality. ●



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THE BIGOT ISSUE

BY ANTHONY GORDON



My first taste of Dunedin nightlife started like this: While I was waiting in line outside the Cook, a group of boys in a Toyota Starlet tore past me and yelled, "Oi, faggot, did you borrow those jeans from your sister?" at me. I tried to laugh it off. But really I felt like crying, going home, curling up in the foetal position and never leaving my bed. However, suggesting "fake it till ya make it" wasn't going to work this time. They had ruined my night.

The word "faggot" is incredibly powerful. If you've never been in a position where it's being yelled at you because you're not straight, it'd be hard to understand the sickening combination of emotions it elicits. A little history lesson: the word faggot refers to a bunch of sticks that have been tied together. Back in the progressive and enlightened era of history known as the Dark Ages when witches were burnt at the stake, those found guilty of homosexuality were viewed as unworthy even of this treatment. They were tossed into the base of the fire, in among

the "faggots" used to start the inferno. Considering the word's origins, you can understand it's akin to being told your mere existence is an abomination.

With three years in Dunedin under my belt, my reaction to the same treatment is different. I'll usually turn up my headphones and pretend I never heard it. While it's great that I no longer let someone who wears a substantial amount of Monster Energy apparel get me down, it's not because I'm now any less insecure — it's quite the opposite. I had to learn to filter out the abuse in order to get by. Just like we all have to wear warm clothes to walk anywhere in Dunedin's chilly climate, if you're like me, you simply have to chuck on a healthy layer of "don't give a fuck" before leaving the house, especially at night.

Meeting me for the first time, you'd probably guess I'm gay. The way I speak, dress and act leads most people to rapidly make

“JUST LIKE WE ALL HAVE TO WEAR WARM CLOTHES TO WALK ANYWHERE IN DUNEDIN’S CHILLY CLIMATE, IF YOU’RE LIKE ME, YOU SIMPLY HAVE TO CHUCK ON A HEALTHY LAYER OF “DON’T GIVE A FUCK” BEFORE LEAVING THE HOUSE, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT.”

conclusions. Dunedin's queer community is diverse; not every-
one lives up the stereotypes as valiantly as I do. People identi-
fy with a ton of different genders and sexualities, and each has
their own unique experience. "Straight-acting" gay friends have
informed me they rarely get noticed, while more conspicuously
queer pals have told me they get treated with similar abuse.

Heading to town on average Saturday night, I might get called
a faggot around fifteen times: from cars, by bouncers, from
strangers walking past, from anywhere. Standing in a fast-food

exaggeration, but on a night out in the capital, homophobic be-
haviour is rarely tolerated. You'd think that Dunedin, which has
a similarly young, vibrant and educated demographic, would
swing the same way.

Homophobia isn't exactly in fashion any longer. Those secretly
clinging onto their bigotry only admit "between the bros" that
they're "not all good" about "the whole gay thing". A friend of
mine told me about a conversation with some such guys she's
a friend of. "I don't have a problem with gays, I'm not homopho-

bic," they told her. "I just
don't like it being shoved
down my throat." Hav-
ing a problem with see-
ing evidence of homo-
sexuality's existence
(especially given that a
barrage of heterosex-
uality is shoved down
everyone's throat on a
daily basis) does make
you the very defini-
tion of "homophobic".

We try to deny that big-
otry exist nowadays;
we all like to think we're
far more open-minded
than any previous gen-
erations — you can be
whoever you want to be.
It's as though by virtue of
having a gay hairdresser
you get along with and
sharing a picture of Neil
Patrick Harris' family to

“NO CHILD IS BORN A HOMOPHOBE — THIS UNFORTUNATE PERSONALITY TRAIT IS ONE THAT’S BEEN PASSED ONTO US BY OLDER PEOPLE DESPERATELY CLINGING TO THE DAYS OF CHEAP PETROL AND CASUAL RACISM. ”

line, for example, I've been told "don't stand behind me, faggot, I
know what you're trying to do". Well, that's how a queue works,
buddy. Walking down George Street on the way home, countless
times I've been asked "the fuck you looking at?", accompanied
by that chest-thrust drunk idiots do to try to look intimidating.

Back in Wellington, anyone could skip down Courtney Place at
three in the morning, draped naked in a rainbow flag and loudly
singing show-tunes, and few would look twice. Okay, that's an

Facebook with the caption "love doesn't have a gender <3", we
think we've immediately cured ourselves of all our prejudice.
Drunken people at parties will tell me, "Mate, just wanted to let
you know that I'm okay with who you are, okay?"

The fact that some people happen to like people who aren't of
the opposite sex has absolutely no bearing upon anyone's life
but their own. None whatsoever. If the idea that I've sucked
someone's dick actually bothers you, then there is something

wrong with you. It's a massive waste of time and energy to let someone else's private life bother you.

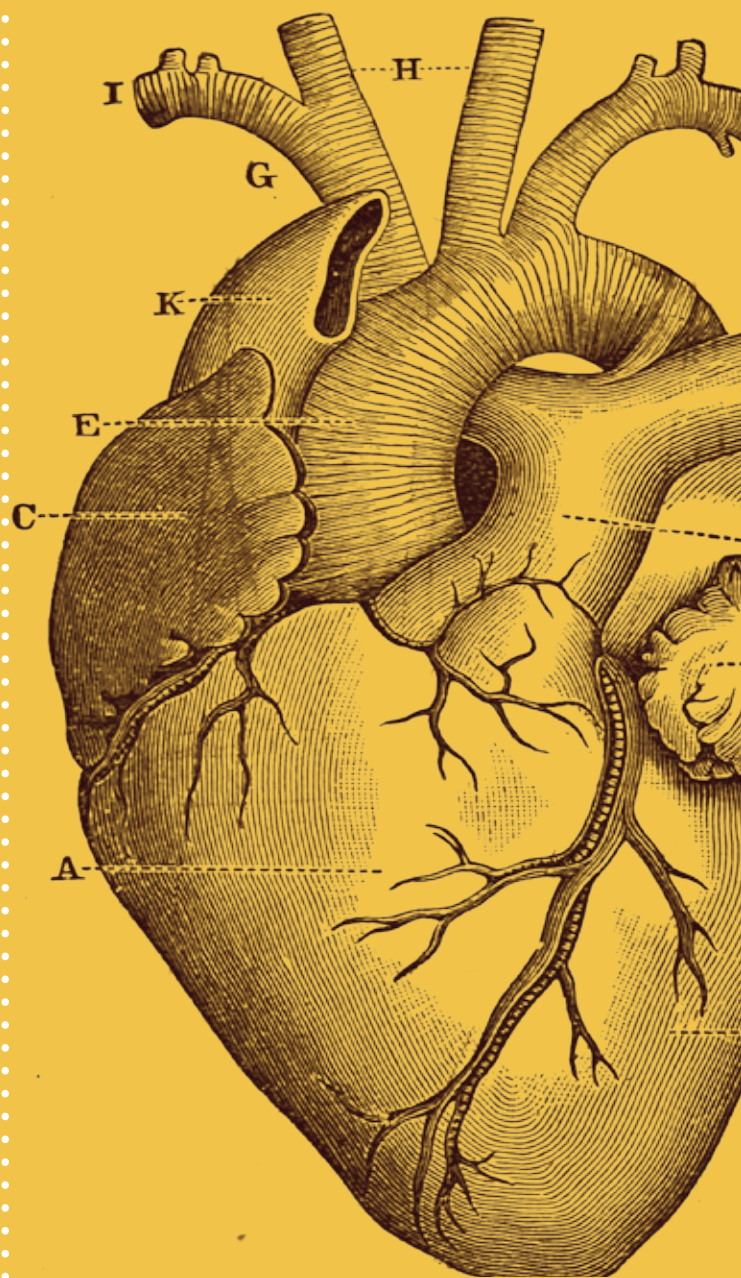
It's impossible to say which of Dunedin's myriad of demographic eccentricities have a role in this phenomenon, and — having only borne witness to its effects without spending a particularly large amount of time with its perpetrators — I don't want to speculate on what causes it. Clearly there is something in this city that causes an intelligent population to lag behind the rest of the country in this respect.

No child is born a homophobe — this unfortunate personality trait is one that's been passed onto us by older people desperately clinging to the days of cheap petrol and casual racism. We're going to be alive for much longer than they are, so why are any of us keeping a hold of their hand-me-down opinions? Surely we'd all rather live in a world so accepting that we'd never have to worry about our kids getting bullied at school, no matter how different from heteronormative society they turned out to be?

Imagine the little queer kid who's moved here from a small town in Southland, expecting this to be a place where they can finally express their own identity, only to clamber back into their shell after finding themselves the target of a tirade of abuse. A middle-aged man approached me at my retail job and confided in me that he'd just left his heterosexual wife of 25 years and was "absolutely terrified of coming out in this city". He isn't living the happy and fulfilled life he could be because of a culture we should be ashamed of.

So please, I beg of you, if you agree with me, don't be afraid to stand up for what's right. If your pals think it'd be a crack-up to throw their half-finished frozen Coke out the car window at that kid in the Docs, please stop them. Trust me, you'd probably stop that kid's night from being ruined, and confronting your friends with the utter douche-baggery of their almost-actions may just be the catalyst that causes some positive change within them. Dunedin is sometimes a really hard place to be different, but even the smallest acts of kindness or tolerance can change someone's day for the better. Hopefully, if we all keep at it, this city will change for the better as well ■

FIG. 13.



BEYOND the BINARY

by Lydia Adams

With recent headlines hailing Bruce Jenner's interview as an "Ellen" moment for the trans* community, we take this opportunity to educate and explore the world of sexuality and gender.

A few weeks ago Bruce Jenner, a former Olympian and present member of the Kardashian clan, revealed to the world that she is trans*. Since her announcement, the trans* rights movement has been gaining momentum the world over, and people everywhere have been taking the initiative to educate themselves regarding gender, sexuality and identity.

In an ideal world, sex education during intermediate and high school years would involve a well-rounded and all-encompassing view of genders and sexualities. Recently, it was reported that an "abstinence-only" high school in West Texas had suffered an outbreak of chlamydia. This event could have easily been avoided. In her interview with Diane Sawyer, Jenner had to remind her — after several confused questions — that gender and sexuality are two completely separate concepts, "like apples and oranges", she said.

As revealed in Statistics NZ's Gender Identity report, there is little population information based on sexual orientation or gender identity in New

Zealand. In 2007, a national youth health and wellbeing survey of 9000 secondary school students (aged 13–18 years) found that 92 percent reported being exclusively sexually attracted to the opposite sex, four percent reported being sexually attracted to the same sex or both sexes, and four percent reported being either attracted to neither sex or being unsure of their sexual orientation.

Currently, there are at least nine trans* New Zealanders in prison — 0.1 percent of the total prison population. Under previous Department of Corrections policy, only those trans* people who have undergone gender reassignment surgery are placed in the prison of their identified gender. A revised policy has recently been approved which entitles eligible prisoners who have amended their birth record (to change their given sex) to be placed in the prison of their true gender. If an eligible trans* prisoner has not amended their birth record, they may apply to the chief executive of the Department of Corrections for placement in accordance with their identified gender.

This has been a big year for trans* awareness. Laverne Cox is

a transwoman and star of the television show *Orange is the New Black*, and she graced the cover of *Time* this year. American President Barack Obama used the word "transgender" in his State of the Union address, becoming the first ever president to do so. While the trans* rights movement has made obvious progress, there is still a long way to go. Rates of both homicide and suicide among the trans* community remain high, with recent estimates from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention stating that around 41 percent of trans* youth will attempt suicide at least once in their lifetime.

Before getting into too much depth, a few definitions might be of use. These are not the exclusive and single definition of each term; they are interpretations designed to help clarify meanings of words and phrases.

Sex: the body you are born with (e.g. male, female, intersex), aka what you assume is in someone's pants.

Gender: the social role you are assigned — usually based on biology (e.g. man, woman, none), aka what the pants are made of.



Gender identity: the social role you desire (e.g. masculine, feminine, androgynous, none), aka what the pants are made of and how they are accessorised.

Sexual orientation: what you desire in your partner(s), aka what the person in the pants wants to do with at least one other person while the pants are off.

Each of the above exists on a spectrum that ranges from one extreme to another.

The words "sex" and "gender" are often used interchangeably, but many linguists and sociologists would argue that their usage is, in fact, rather distinct. A person's sex refers to their biological and physiological traits, whereas a person's gender refers to their behaviours, roles, expectations and activities within society.

Kate Bornstein, an American author, performance artist and gender theorist, is well known among the LGBTQ community. In one of her works, "Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation", she says: "Instead of saying that all gender is this or all gender is that, let's recognize that the

word gender has scores of meanings built into it. It's an amalgamation of bodies, identities, and life experiences, subconscious urges, sensations, and behaviors, some of which develop organically, and others which are shaped by language and culture. Instead of saying that gender is any one single thing, let's start describing it as an holistic experience."

As suggested by Bornstein in describing gender as a holistic experience, gender identity cannot be used to predict a person's sexual orientation. If a person expresses themselves in a more feminine fashion, accessorises their pants with a "femme flair", you could say — how on Earth does that tell you anything about their sexuality? Simply put, it doesn't!

Heteronormativity is the belief that, in basic terms, anyone and everyone you meet in life is heterosexual and cisgender, until proven otherwise. Heteronormative behaviour is, regrettably, very commonplace. It is because of this that anyone who identifies themselves as being outside the cis- and hetero-demographic must go through a "coming out" process, in which they "reveal their true selves" to friends and family members.

If one individual has to announce their sexuality and/or gender to the world, why doesn't everyone?

"It's just a phase." "You'll get over it." "Why have you chosen this lifestyle?" "That's unnatural." Loved ones hearing for the first time that their friend/family/associate is not of the cis- or hetero-denomination have used all of these phrases time and time again, without thinking for a second about the hurt they are causing. "It's easy to fictionalize an issue when you're not aware of the many ways in which you are privileged by it," says Bornstein.

N.B. People who do not respect your choices are not good people to keep in your life.

Everyone spends time reflecting upon their own sexual identity and behaviours, and it can be during these periods of self-reflection that individuals come to find that perhaps they don't quite fit into the pre-existing metaphorical box they thought they did. The problem with any identity shift is fear of change. By nature, when we attach ourselves to a concept, we fear changing it. This can be for a number of reasons: fear of rejection, worrying about "betraying" others

in your community, fear of abandoning the familiar (and the list goes on).

According to Statistics New Zealand and the Gender Identity report published in July of last year, New Zealand does not have a standard definition of gender identity. The report itself drew on the Yogyakarta principles, which were developed by international human rights experts in 2007 to act as a guide for applying international human rights laws and standards to gender identity and sexual orientation issues. Statistics NZ also wrote about the concept of gender identity as being "dynamic, with the terms in vogue and their meanings changing over time". The report was written as a semi-proposal for changes to be made to the next New Zealand Census, as currently Section 24 of the Statistics Act explicitly states that Statistics NZ should obtain data regarding sex rather than gender identity.

In 2004, the Human Rights Commission reported on the status of human rights in New Zealand and found that trans*, non-binary and intersex people (in this country) face discrimination in several aspects of their lives. The Human Rights Act 1993 outlaws discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, yet some examples of inequity are still reported (for example, the New Zealand Blood Service defers any man

who has engaged in any type of intercourse with another man in the past twelve months from donating blood, regardless of whether or not they used protection).

There's no wrong way to be "gay" or "straight" or any other sexual orientation. Perhaps a person who identifies as lesbian also finds themselves very attracted to certain men — does that make them bisexual? Only if they want it to.

A person's gender can change over their lifetime. Gender identities vary greatly, and not all people fit into pre-existing categories. Everyone defines their orientations and identities differently, and each individual's personal definition should be respected. In the words of the ever-brilliant Kate Bornstein, "Let's stop pretending that we have all the answers, because when it comes to gender, none of us is fucking omniscient."

** Trans is an umbrella term used to be more inclusive of various communities and individuals with non-binary gender identities and/expressions. It is used by some individuals as an identity to describe just themselves, (e.g. "I identify as trans*"), but it is also possible that someone who holds an identity that falls under the trans* umbrella to not identify with the term.*



VOCAB LESSON

Agender: Someone who identifies and/or feels like they have no gender.

Bigender: Someone who identifies and/or feels like they simultaneously, or consecutively, have two genders.

Cisgender: Someone who identifies as the gender they were assigned at birth.

Genderfluid: A gender identity that changes with time, circumstance and/or situation.

Genderqueer: An umbrella term for anyone who identifies as anything outside the "gender binary" of masculine or feminine (also known as non-binary).

Intergender: Someone who identifies as being between genders, or a combination of genders.

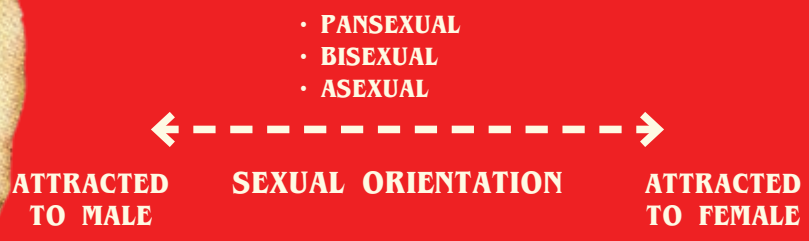
Pangender: Someone who identifies with many gender expressions.

Polygender: Someone who identifies as being more than one or a combination of genders.

Trans*: An umbrella term for anyone who identifies as anything under a non-binary gender, or is transgender.

Transgender: Someone who identifies with a different gender than the one they were assigned at birth. When an individual identifies and/or feels as though they were born with the wrong-sex body and attempts to correct this, they are transsexual.

Trigender: Someone who identifies as neither male nor female, but not androgynous, and thus constructs their own gender OR someone who identifies and/or feels like they simultaneously, or consecutively, have three genders.



For additional resources go to outline.org.nz (688 54630 or genderbridge.org (0800 844 357)). To get involved, contact OUSA Queer Support at 03 489 5445, 021 147 4636 or q.support@ousa.org.nz

Allosexual: Someone who experiences sexual attraction.

Asexual: Someone who does not experience sexual attraction, or experiences such a low level of sexual attraction they do not consider it notable. N.B. Asexuality is not celibacy, and — as with all gender/sexuality-associated concepts — it exists on a spectrum.

Bisexual: Someone who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to two genders.

Demisexual: Someone who does not experience sexual attraction until they form a strong emotional connection with someone.

Heterosexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to people of the "opposing" sex/gender (i.e. female/woman attracted to male/man and vice versa).

Homosexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to people of the same gender or same sex.

Omnisexual: Someone who feels equal levels of emotional and/or sexual attraction to anyone, regardless of gender.

Pansexual: Someone who feels emotionally and/or sexually attracted to anyone of any gender; attraction is based on an individual's personality.

Polysexual: Someone who is attracted to several, but not all, gender(s).

Pomosexual: Someone who does not wish their sexuality to be placed into pre-existing/conventional categories.

Skoliosexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to non-binary identified individuals.

Spectrsexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to people who identify themselves on a spectrum of genders and/or sexes.

LOVE LETTERS TO THE CLOSET

We asked students to tell us about their experiences of being anything but the straight cisgender. Many students have used university as a time to be honest with themselves about who they are, and the reactions they receive from their friends are overwhelmingly positive — as they should be.

Here are their letters to us.

Dear Lesbians,

You're so cool.

I was in denial since I was a little boy about being a lesbian. Up until first year of varsity. I dreamed of kissing and holding a girl close one day, but never ever planned on even saying it aloud. I was afraid of rejection from friends and embarrassing my family. In hindsight, there was nothing to fear, just wasted quality Tinder time.

I discovered my sexuality when I got fanny flutter for a female. A friend who still has no idea I liked them. They were upset their boyfriend dumped them ... I was so happy.

I never understood my feelings fully until I was exposed to others who were gay through sport and living in a city. Being around them made me feel super comfortable with the idea that I was most likely gay. I say most likely because at 19 I still hadn't been with a boy. I wasn't

going to knock it till I tried it, so jumped on board and quickly thought the whole thing was overrated. But then ... I kissed a girl and I liked it. It turned out they were gay, so we "watched a movie" then I turned into a bunny rabbit!

What gave me the courage to come out? My little brother. He came out while at an all-boys boarding school. I remember being pretty restless during lectures while he was at school after people found out. I was scared for him and would park outside his school ready to help him if he needed help. But it really wasn't necessary because all his friends and teachers were so supportive! Other boys even shared their sexuality with him, and his friends had a petition signed so he could take a boy to formal. He became a role model. Especially to me.

Without my little brother, I'd probably still be trying to play the straight card. Thanks, dude, xo.

To anyone considering coming out, do it. Once you do, you hit an emotional state pretty quickly where you're past caring what anyone thinks, and it feels freakin' good. Be humorous and proud of your sexuality. Tell a handful of friends you trust. People might ask "is Carol gay!?" Your closest friends will naturally defend you and tell them to back off!

Ask your mates not to be defensive, to smile about it and say "YEA, she is super gay! Cool, ae?" Don't make it a big deal and it won't be a big deal. Keep being you and you will be known just for you.

Also, get Tinder — even if you don't want a "relationship", lesbians are quality friends. You can relate to each other, hang out and use the money you saved from contraception to buy a cat.

Rosie

At my single-sex high school, it was tough for a while, as girls worked under the false presumption that I fancied every woman who walked past. As I got older, that faded away as people realised that I couldn't care less what they thought about my sexual preferences.

My second coming out as genderqueer was much harder. My family don't know. I'm still in that process of acceptance and exploration. I think a lot

of me is still afraid as transphobia is so much more rampant than any homophobia I've experienced. If I leave the house dressed as a man, I am constantly watching my back, on edge and afraid, trying to avoid being noticed. But I also feel more free than I ever do in high heels and a skirt.

You'd think that gender would be easier than sexuality, but it isn't; sexuality is all happening behind closed doors, but gender is constantly on display for

people to judge and make assumptions about. I don't want to have to hide out of fear, but the news is always full of horror stories of the abuse of transgender people worldwide and sometimes it's easier to live the lie of cisgender.

Rachel
xxx

Critic,

I am bi. It still feels weird to say that after being in the closet for so long, but there you go. I first came out a couple of months ago after a floor BYO. I made a joke about how I liked girls when walking back to my hall with a group of friends. One of my friends took me aside and asked me if I was serious, and that was it. Kind of anticlimatic, but I didn't stop smiling for the rest of the night. When I got back to my room, I cried because I was so happy. It sounds cliché, but it really did feel like a massive weight off my chest. I've come out about eight times now (twice while sober! apparently drunk me really wants people to know I'm not straight) and I haven't had a single negative reaction. A couple of my friends even want to take me to a gay bar.

I still haven't told my family though; I'm kind of hoping one of them will see this article to save an awkward conversation. I know they'd take it really well though — and a shout out to my Dad for always asking if I had a girlfriend whenever he asked about boyfriends! To be honest, I always just thought I'd call home, like, "Mum! Dad! I've got a girlfriend!" when I was planning this in high school, but I haven't had much luck on the girlfriend (or boyfriend) front yet.

High school was pretty shit. I went to a local school which was quite religious, and I think there was one girl in the whole year group who was out. One of the teachers who everyone loved was really strongly against same-sex marriage because of his religion, so I'd avoid him as much as I could. I was just ashamed about not being straight and was kind of scared that he'd know I was one of "The Gays" if I talked to him for too long. None of the students ever did anything which was actually fully homophobic, but there were a lot of little things. "Dyke" was the go-to insult, and things weren't just uncool — they were "like, super gay". I can remember dropping PE as soon as I could because I was terrified that someone would accuse me of perving on them (not that I ever did) and ask me if I was gay.

I might have made this sound like I always knew I was bi and was just waiting to get to university so I could out myself while drunk, but that isn't true at all. I first realised that I wasn't straight when I was around 13 or 14, and I only figured out I was bi last year, when I was 17. This meant that for most of high school I really had no idea about a pretty important part of my identity. A lot of that came from not knowing other sexualities even existed. It wasn't until I was sixteen that I realised there were sexualities out there other

than straight or gay. Finally something fit. I actually marked the date in my diary as the first time I stopped feeling so shit about my sexuality because I discovered that there really are other options out there.

To be honest, I am still angry about this. I felt like shit about myself for years because of something it would have taken ten minutes to skim over in health class. For fuck's sake, tell kids that these labels exist! They can Google it at home if you don't feel comfortable explaining gender and sexuality to a couple of fourteen year olds, but please just tell them that there is more than straight or gay, or man or woman. Tell kids that they don't have to feel just one way or the other. The depression and suicide rates are so much higher for LGBTQA teens than straight teens, and this is a part of it. Yes, there's gay pride, and gay characters on TV, and openly gay celebrities but that's it. There is nothing for the asexual kids, or the trans kids, or the bi kids.

We exist, and we need this representation and acceptance as well.

Jenny

Dear Critic,

I turned up at uni happily "out" to everyone I knew, so I've not seen any need to hide my identity since I've been here. I take pride in who I am, which is why we use the term "pride" so often. Telling my friends was a daunting task, but I've primarily had friends in artistic circles for years, but it was telling my parents that filled me with dread. It took me five months to work up the courage to tell my mum. We spend so much time focusing on the negative possibilities that we get caught in this cycle of fear that we engineer ourselves. "What if ..." is the worst thing we can do to ourselves and has the potential to make you very unhealthy. I can attest to that.

Well, there's never an ideal time. Regardless of when, it still feels like you're just blurting things out. Mum, however, thought I was getting depressed, so one day when I was home and we were watching a movie on TV she turns to me during the ad break and just goes "What's wrong?" ... I tell you, all that stuff they say about having psychic powers is probably true ... When she started her wee rant

though, I just cracked up laughing! "Mum, I just like a guy!" This stopped her short. And my mother being the woman she is just goes, "Are you sure you're not just NICE, remember your grandfather, he was nice but he got depressed near the end ..." "NO, MUM, I'm just gay! Well, and nice, but still gay." The only other thing she had to say on the matter is this: "Well, I'm sure you'll fit into whatever kind of relationship you like." Mum, I for one hope so, otherwise it's not much of a relationship. Being yourself is nothing to fear, and in my view true friends and family will stick by you. As for the others, if there are any at all, then it's purely their loss!

College, university. A time to experiment and get to know yourself, really discover yourself. Let's face it, if you're not "straight-acting", "discreet", "downlow" (the terms go on ...) — basically if you're comfortable with yourself — chances are you'll feel excluded from the rest of the student body to some degree. It's an ironic truth. When you're comfortable with who you are, it's other people that make you feel uncomfortable. University is great in that the academic approach means that your intellect and mind are what matter

the most. Unless you are asked (or display your sexuality openly somehow like I do in pretty much everything I do), then the majority of students aren't going to either know or care. The University of Otago is largely a heteronormative environment, that is to say that being "straight" is the norm. But there is also this awesomely surreal openness about campus as well. The acceptance we all secretly crave. Parties, SPACE, social causes and get-togethers bring the "community" together and allow us the freedom of expression that is dampened elsewhere. Sure, campus can be intimidating at times, and we may not always feel comfortable at the major events, but we have each other. The support network at uni is great, and you should make use of it. University is a place where you can form bonds and connections that will last your whole life. So make the most of your time here. Ignore the little insecurities of others who are still trying to figure out who they are — they'll get there eventually.

Be yourself,

George

Critic,

I've been fairly open about my sexuality for the last year or so, though I'm not out to all my family. My high school was quite open about this kind of thing, and a lot of the students were queer in one way or another. I've found uni to be pretty much the same, though the lecturers sometimes still have hetero as their mental default, which is to be expected, I guess. The other day in a song-writing lecture, the lecturer stressed that love songs are gender specific, and if the singer is a different gender to the writer, they have to switch the pronouns around so it makes sense. I was sitting there laughing because I had just submitted a love song about a girl, with mention to my previously having a thing with a guy.

I don't like my sexuality being part of my introduction. I don't meet people and say "Hi, my name's Aelyth, no

that's with a 'th' at the end, yes, I know, it's very odd, oh and by the way, I like all genders", so I'm not sure that a lot of people in my classes know. Which is something I'm torn on. I don't want it to be a big deal where I sit down all my new friends and explain pansexuality in depth, but it would be nice to know that people know. A lot of my friends from high school are at uni with me, and obviously they know.

I have had some really good guesses on what pansexuality is. One guy I was talking to at a gig — I did the whole talk on how sexuality isn't a binary, it's a spectrum, etc, and he replied with "So it's like bisexuality, but you like objects?" That is the point where I gave up.

Pansexuality makes more sense if you understand that gender is more than just boy or girl, there's a whole bunch of people who fit in between those two parameters. Basically being pan means

that you don't bother with gender when you're attracted to people. It just doesn't come into the picture as a relevant detail. Some people have stronger preferences for certain genders, and that's totally valid. You can be pan but mostly attracted to men, or very rarely attracted to non-binary people, or whatever! The most important thing to keep in mind with labels is that you make them fit you. They aren't a box you have to squeeze yourself into, they are something that helps other people understand who you are.

Lots of Love,

Aelyth

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Private Utopia: Contemporary Art from the British Council Collection

» DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY | 28 MAR 2015 – 9 AUG 2015

REVIEWED BY LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER

In symbolic flashes of red, white and blue, Private Utopia spreads across the first floor of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, providing an extensive, in parts overwhelming, display of British contemporary art. Given its scale and diversity of subjects and form, wandering through the show involves encounters with conflicting themes – sometimes so contrasting that certain works seem to be linked only by their presence in the British Council Collection.

As accompanying text explains, five threads run through the displayed artists' practices: "storytelling and narrative, humour and the uncanny in the everyday, real and imagined landscapes, identity and society, and the appropriation of styles, subjects and ready-made materials". These threads tie together to create a "highly anticipated 20-year snapshot of contemporary British art". The Dunedin Public Art Gallery is the only Australasian institution to exhibit Private Utopia, which makes the show that much more significant. While it is a lot to take in, by taking small steps and focusing on segments of the show (as the wall texts suggest you do), the experience becomes far more engaging.

Among the 80-plus artworks by 28 British artists is an enticing slither of works titled *Myself/Yourself*. The works in this segment of the show are by Tracy Emin, Sarah Lucas, Gary Hume (shown in another part of the gallery) and Haroon Mirza. Linked by questions of identity, these works explore the artists' interpretation of the self. The qualities that make up identity are sometimes exaggerated or deliberately simplified (particularly in Hume's works) and do not necessarily reflect the artists' true selves but rather ideas of who and what they represent.



DAVID SHRIGLEY
I'm Dead 2010
Mixed Media. British Council Collection.
Image courtesy Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
© The Artist

Hume's works feature simplified forms, predominantly human figures, sometimes constructed with just two or three colours. Mirza's combined sculptural, sound and video work features a string of red lights overfilling an open box, a figurine swirling on a turntable and a television depicting a man expertly and musically using his knives at a street-food stand. But it is the works of Lucas and Emin that, for me, are particularly striking by themselves and in their interaction with each other.

Sarah Lucas was born in London in 1962, and Tracy Emin was born one year later, also in London. The artists are connected not only by location but also by their friendship and explorations of the body as a central subject in much of their art. In 1993 they even made and sold work from a shop on Bethnal Green Road in East London together. Their connectedness and the power of their works when displayed

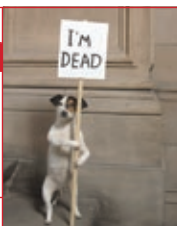
together remind me too of the Hocken's current show featuring works by Cilla McQueen and Joanna Margaret Paul.

Lucas' work in this exhibition includes a selection of photos of her, often confrontational and twistedly humorous in her posing (facing the camera directly, legs spread, fried eggs covering her breasts) and a stuffed, sculpted nylon stocking, which is part of a larger collection of works called NUDS. Mere steps away from these works is a wonderful blanket work by Emin with bold, black stitching that resembles a sketch of the artist's naked body. Her legs are splayed and a pile of coins pools between her legs. Neighbouring this work is a book made by Emin depicting images from the first thirteen years of her life. From the confrontational nature of splayed legs to the traces of the autobiographical or personal, Emin's and Lucas' work is evocative and relevant. ●

www.dunedin.art.museum



DAVID SHRIGLEY I'm Dead 2010 Mixed media. British Council Collection.
Image courtesy Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum © The Artist



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PRIVATE UTOPIA

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A major touring exhibition of more than 80 artworks by 28 British artists who came into prominence from the 1990s onwards, including works by Grayson Perry, Sarah Lucas, David Shrigley, Cornelia Parker, Tracy Emin, Martin Creed...



Cuban Sandwiches

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS

This is essentially just an epic ham and cheese toastie. They are called Cuban as they are most commonly found in Cuban immigrant communities in the States and are frequently consumed as a workday lunch.

I used a leg joint of pork (shoulder was preferable but not as cheap), rubbed it with spices and left it to melt away in my slow cooker overnight, all ready for the morning sandwich fest.

While the idea of starting prep for this 12 hours in advance seems like a lot of effort, let me assure you that it isn't. You will yield a massive amount of pulled pork from this, which you can use for a few meals. It can also be frozen ready for the next time you are hankering for a pulled pork taco or slider.

These are traditionally made with Cuban bread; the closest thing to that in NZ supermarkets is Italian bread. It has a short crumb and a soft crust, making it ideal to squish down into a flat-ish sandwich.

The quantities here are just guidelines. Of course, put more pork or cheese into these if you wish.

CUBAN SANDWICHES

MAKES 4

- **2 long** Italian bread rolls (about 20cm long)
- butter to spread over the outer surface of the bread
- mayonnaise (I use Best Foods)
- yellow mustard
- **4 slices** thick shaved ham
- **2 cups** pulled pork (recipe below)
- **6 long** slices of gherkin
- **4 slices** Swiss cheese

To assemble the sandwiches, preheat a large frying pan to a medium heat. Take your bread rolls and slice them lengthways. Press down on the bread to compress and flatten it (this will make it easier to toast). Spread butter over the outer surfaces of each half. Spread the inside of one of the halves with the mayonnaise and the other with the mustard. On top of the mustard, start layering on the ham, then pulled pork, then pickle, then cheese. Secure the top and place in the hot frying pan. Once the first side is golden brown, flip and cook the other side until it too has browned and the cheese has begun to melt. Remove from the pan and slice into two halves.

SLOW-COOKER PULLED PORK

MAKES A LOT

- **3 tablespoons** paprika
- **2 teaspoons** cumin
- **1 teaspoon** smoked paprika
- **1 teaspoon** chili powder
- **½ teaspoon** dried thyme
- **2** onions, sliced
- **2.5 kg** pork shoulder or leg with the bone in
- **5 cloves** garlic, minced
- **½ cup** honey
- **¼ cup** red wine vinegar

Combine the spices, thyme and salt together. Place the sliced onions in the base of the slow cooker and rest the pork joint on the top. Rub the spice mix and garlic over the pork and sprinkle the excess into the slow cooker. Drizzle over the honey and pour over the red wine vinegar. Put the lid on and cook on high for 8 to 10 hours or overnight. Carefully remove the pork and onions from the slow cooker and dispose of the excess fat and bones. Use two forks to shred the meat apart, transfer to a bowl and mix in half to a full cup of the cooking juices to keep the meat moist.



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Capping Show Review: CAMPUS WATCH

» DIRECTED BY **BEN MCCARTHY** AND **EMMA BAUER**

REVIEWED BY **MAYA DODD**



As a seasoned attendee of The Capping Show (seasoned may be a little too generous a term — I've only been to three), I was expecting big things. If the renowned humour associated with the comic event failed to brighten the gloomy pit in which I am currently residing, I was not going to be a happy camper. Upon entering the auditorium, I was greeted with the soulful sounds of 8am Lecture. Like a few shots of cheap vodka, their upbeat and entertaining melodies helped me to forget the woes of my life as a finalist and definitely went down a lot smoother than any Smirnoff ever could. The performance from the band foreshadowed what was to come — a night of laughter, amusement and wicked entertainment.

Campus Watch: The Capping Show 2015 follows the life of Campus Watch extraordinaires, Sharon (Jana Polglase) and Bruce (Alex Martyn), as they go undercover in the line of duty.

Confronted with the absurd predicament of having all the water on campus switched out for beer, Bruce and Sharon go on a mission to find the culprit and restore order and sobriety to the university. Posing as students, they discover the people responsible for the crimes — personified versions of Dunedin's favourite student bar, the Cook. With the help of other bars such as Gardies, Metro and Monkey (which are unfortunately forever lost to us), the vengeful Cook brothers endeavour to turn the world into one massive, eternally drunken party as payback.

The show's main storyline was interspersed with unrelated, yet cleverly written sketches that almost always elicited laughter from the audience. My personal favourites were the Urban Animals sketch, where a faux David Attenborough shared his knowledge of the freshers spawned from each first year hall, and the ANZ Bank Heist, which encouraged interaction

with the audience and got us all out of our seats. The eagerly anticipated performances by Sexytet and Sextet did not disappoint, and each group had the audience laughing with their clever, lyrically altered covers. The 87th annual Selwyn Ballet also made an amusing appearance, with a brilliantly choreographed piece that was surprisingly aptly executed by the boys themselves.

However, the politically correct side of me was shaking its head at the Ebola skits, and especially at the sketch concerning Germanwings Flight 9525 — too soon, guys. In saying that, without a little disagreeable humour, it wouldn't be The Capping Show now, would it?

This year's Capping Show exhibited some excellent comedy, and with a talented cast, there is no doubt that their upcoming performances will be just as impressive as their opening night. ●

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Testament of Youth

» DIRECTED BY **JAMES KENT**



REVIEWED BY **SHAUN SWAIN**

Often in our attempts to stomach the darker parts of our past, we create sentimentality by zooming in on the massive numbers of those involved and choose to observe the smaller tales of individuals. However, *Testament of Youth* elegantly zooms out of a personal story of the few and allows the plight of the many to be witnessed.

Testament of Youth is a British drama

film based on the memoir of the same name. Set during World War I, the film showcases the tribulations of pacifist and feminist, Vera Brittain (Alicia Vikander). Vera departs from Somerville College in Oxford to join the Voluntary Aid Detachment as a nurse; her brother Edward (Taron Egerton), friends Victor (Colin Morgan) and Geoffrey (Johnathan Bailey), and fiancé Roland (Kit Harington) are sent to

the front lines of the British army. Most of the storyline focuses on the connections and relationships Vera has with those around her.

Testament of Youth is majestically filmed; it feels like you're watching a memory rather than just a retelling of events. The dream-like state of the film provides enough subjectivity that one can truly empathise with Vera but enough objectivity that the grittiness of war and the breakdown of the traditional world can be seen and felt. Even though Vera's character moves through settings that range from the tragically beautiful to the horrifically grim, Vikander's headstrong performance makes her a grounded focal point for the story that unfolds around her.

While the importance the film places on relationships is tied to war, the significance of Vera's female perspective unfortunately becomes reduced from a means to break down traditional feminine values during World War I to an exposition of the pain of a widow, severely downplaying her role as an important historical heroine.

Even though remembering warfare is a constantly painful struggle, *Testament of Youth* is a gruesomely captivating film that reminds us that remembering the war is not only a difficult but also a necessary thing to do. ●

The Gunman

» DIRECTED BY **PIERRE MOREL**



REVIEWED BY **LAURA STARLING**

Basing this film on the novel *The Prone Gunman* by Jean-Patrick Manchette, Morel attempts to execute a gritty, regretful hero story but falls incredibly short. Instead, we are given an unsuccessful, drawn-out action film with an annoying love triangle that permeates the entire plotline.

The Gunman follows Jim Terrier (Sean Penn), an ex-soldier who is running from his atrocious past of being exactly what the title suggests — a gunman. The audience is given a brief backstory about Jack Terrier and how he is obviously madly in love with Annie (Jasmine Trinca). Felix, the pair's mutual friend, also has feelings for Annie — which you can see when he blatantly stares at the couple between their smushed faces — setting up the film's infamous love triangle.

Alongside Felix and their boss Cox (Mark Rylance), Jack is part of a mercenary assassination team. The team is given the task of killing the Congolese minister of mines. Felix is given authority over who makes the kill shot. It is no surprise, then, that after staring at a picture of Annie, Felix makes Terrier take the kill shot, forcing him to abandon everything — including Annie. However, his sacrifice is for nothing — the assassination only makes problems worse in the Congo.

Eight years into the future, Jack Terrier is back in the Congo doing humanitarian work. When he is attacked by a group of men with guns and machetes, Terrier subdues them and discovers that they were sent to assassinate him. To find out why he is being targeted, Terrier returns to London to reconnect with his



past and, in doing so, he meets up with Cox, Felix and Annie, who is now married to Felix.

The Gunman is predictable, the acting is phoned in and the plot kind of forgets what it's supposed to be doing. With unreasonable character motivation, the film was awful to sit through. The only good thing about *The Gunman* is that it has Idris Elba, and he's only in the film for about two minutes. ●



Hoje Eu Quero Voltar Sozinho/ The Way He Looks

» DIRECTED BY **DANIEL RIBEIRO**

SOON TO BE
CLASSIC

REVIEWED BY **MANDY TE**

I fondly associate *The Way He Looks* with a friend who is on the other side of the world. When I told him that I would be reviewing this soon-to-be classic, he described the moment as "serendipitous" — he had watched the film only a few days ago while on a train to Washington DC. *The Way He Looks* has a warmth to it — one that brings people together, no matter the circumstances — due to its cheek-squishing plot and the authentic performances from an astounding cast.

The Way He Looks follows a typical

coming-of-age plotline, but there's something more to the story. The film centres on Leo (Ghilherme Lobo), a blind high-school student who yearns for independence — something his parents and even best friend Giovanna (Tess Amorim) don't really give him. His parents fuss over the slightest things, and although Leo's friendship with Giovanna is sweet — she walks him home after school every day — the way she's always watching over him verges on unbearable. Leo's blindness doesn't make him feel different but, rather, the way people

like his parents act around him adds a little something extra to his growing pains. One growing pain in particular for Leo is the fact that he has yet to be kissed by someone and is under the impression that no one is interested in ever kissing him.

When a new student named Gabriel (Fabio Audi) joins their class, he soon becomes friends with Leo and Giovanna. As Leo spends more time with Gabriel, he begins to develop feelings for him, while also experiencing doubt and insecurity. Their friendship affects many aspects of Leo's life, and when it eventually evolves into a budding romance, it is one that is looked at with eager eyes and pure elation.

The Way He Looks almost interrupts the beautiful moments captured between Leo and Gabriel, as there are times when it becomes a victim of young adult film tropes. However, Ribeiro's ability to capture and meticulously cultivate those moments makes the audience forget about the recycled aspects of the script. Instead, the audience is given a film that is memorable, vibrant and incredibly sweet. ●

Stay Tuned

» DIRECTED BY **PETER HYAMS**

CULT

REVIEWED BY **ALEX CAMPBELL-HUNT**

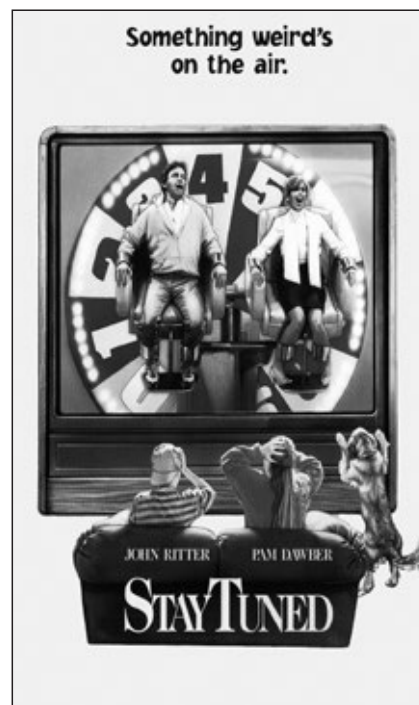
Stay Tuned is an imaginative, entertaining and weirdly under-appreciated family comedy that answers the question we all pondered as kids: "What would happen if I could go inside my TV and participate in all of the shows?"

Turns out it wouldn't be so great, especially if your TV set was sold to you by Satan.

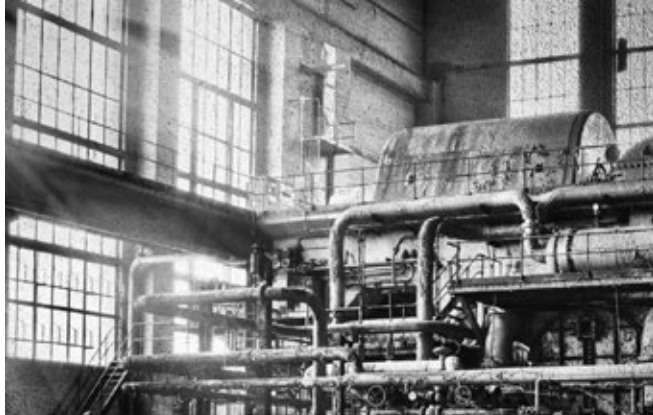
Roy and Helen Knables, a married couple played by Pam Dawber and the late John Ritter, are sucked into their magical TV set, which Ritter's character unwittingly bought from a demonic salesman called Spike (Jeffrey Jones). To escape, Roy and Helen must survive a gauntlet of twisted, hell-themed versions of their favourite TV shows, including a sadistic game show, an abnormally violent western and plenty of nods to 90s television and movies — hey, at least they don't have to deal with *Geordie Shore*. To succeed, they get outside help from their kids, Darryl (David Tom) and Diane (Heather McComb).

The plot has that almost Spielbergian vibe shared by other films of the era, with relatable suburban characters having supernatural adventures; however, *Stay Tuned* packs a satirical punch. The screenwriters, Tom Parker and Jim Jennewein, previously worked as ad copywriters — and judging from the plot, the pair were a bit disillusioned with the television industry.

In addition to the sharp satire, *Stay Tuned* has cool visual effects and there are some pretty hilarious breaking-the-fourth-wall moments in the final scene. The two leads are amiable screen presences who carry the film well. Sadly, some sequences drag on a bit and the supporting characters are mostly forgettable; the kids are one-dimensional as their son is a nerdy dweeb and their daughter is a cheerleader. I'm normally a Eugene Levy fan (the dad from *American Pie*) but his character, Crowley, is completely superfluous to the storyline — presumably only existing because the director wanted Eugene Levy in the film.



The premise, humour and warm 90s nostalgia of *Stay Tuned* are enough to make the film work though. Not least because of the pop culture references — the parody TV shows include *Fresh Prince of Darkness*, *Three Men and Rosemary's Baby* and *Dwayne's Underworld*. ●



The Kraken King

» WRITTEN BY **MELJEAN BROOKS**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

For those hiding under a rock, steampunk is a subgenre of science fiction that incorporates steam-powered devices with Victorian design. *The Kraken King*, by Meljean Brooks, is a steampunk romance novel, and for once it had all the fun adventure, cool technology and body horror that people always assure me steampunk has.

The Kraken King tells the story of Zenobia, a writer travelling incognito with two mercenary bodyguards. She is accompanying her friend, Helene, on a journey when their airship is attacked. Zenobia is rescued by Ariq, a former revolutionary who now runs a small town in Australia called Krakentown. Ariq and Zenobia instantly want to bone, but he believes she is a spy and she has horrendous trust issues. This combines with outside political forces; drama ensues.

It took me a while to like Zenobia. The narrative introduces her as irritated by her supposed best friend. Their relationship never stops being something Zenobia has to make an effort with, and the way the narrative talks

about Helene is always slightly condescending. I see this a lot in books aimed at women, and I never like it. If you don't respect someone, struggle to enjoy their company and have to constantly remind yourself of their good qualities to avoid yelling at them, that person is not your friend. One of Zenobia's most important motivations is looking after Helene, but she barely ever seems to enjoy her company. *The Kraken King* is crawling with awesome ladies being badass and Zenobia is definitely one of them, but the first impression wasn't great and the issues with Helene never went away. Still, I became fond of Zenobia. And Ariq nicely balances compassion with the alpha-to-infinity-and-beyond quality so prevalent in romance novel heroes.

Steampunk annoys me because it is often so terribly implemented. Romance annoys me because many of the traditional tropes of fictional romance are frustrating. Ariq is described as having hard muscles. That's the opposite of appealing to me. Brooks spends the first third of the book mentioning Ariq's hard muscles every five pages. Possibly this was

meant to portray attraction, but to me it read as "by the way, the muscles are still there; hard, muscular guy is still muscly" and it got on my nerves. At one point during a sexy make-out scene, Ariq tears Zenobia's clothes. I cannot imagine anything less sexy than damage to my clothing. If you tear my clothes on purpose outside of an emergency, any relationship we may have had is over, I will hate you forever and you owe me money. Despite this novel being upfront and sex positive in all other aspects, Zenobia is a virgin by sheer virtue of never having really wanted to bonk a dude before. Even though she wants to insta-bone Ariq right away. This is totally contrived and undermines all the other perfectly acceptable feminist noises *The Kraken King* makes.

I am fairly sure Brooks is already steampunk famous, so if you're a fan of the genre, you've probably heard of her. But if you're a fan of hard muscles and high adventure and interested in trying steampunk, by all means go try this book. It's entertaining, which is all I've ever asked for. ●



Faith No More **Sol Invictus**

» **ALTERNATIVE METAL** | RECLAMATION RECORDS; 2015

REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**



Faith No More are credited with spawning the alternative metal genre. They fused metal with many other styles, including pop, funk and alternative rock, paving the way for artists like Nirvana and the Smashing Pumpkins. Though their 1990 single "Epic" still receives regular airplay, Faith No More never enjoyed the same commercial success as the bands they inspired. By the time they released their bacchanalian 1992 masterpiece *Angel Dust*, Faith No More had established themselves as a band of uncompromising creativity.

1995's *King for a Day ... Fool for a Lifetime* and 1997's jokingly titled *Album of the Year* saw the band grow all the more unmarketable. This is largely due to frontman and six-octave vocalist Mike Patton, who brought the

experimentalism of his other band, Mr. Bungle, to the table. It was around this time that Faith No More also grew darker in sound. There is a sepulchral atmosphere to *Album of the Year* in particular, its songs "Helpless" and "Paths of Glory" possessing a grave beauty the likes of which we had never heard from Faith No More. Fittingly, *Album of the Year* proved to be the band's final album. Or so we thought.

Sol Invictus is Faith No More's first album in eighteen

years. At a breezy 39 minutes, it is also among their shortest. Thankfully, not one of those minutes is wasted. *Sol Invictus* manages to reference each of the chapters in Faith No More's history, as well as progress into new and exciting territory.

More than any other Faith No More album, *Sol Invictus* plays out like a

story. The band returns from the dead on opener "Sol Invictus", as groggy and cadaverous as you'd expect. Taking his first steps out of his moss-caked tomb, Mike Patton muses that he "can't remember which god is [his] one". For a band





FAITH NO MORE

with a name as atheistic as Faith No More, religion and worship have never really featured in their lyrics up until now. However, Patton introduces these themes of spiritual uncertainty, which he sustains throughout the album. He mentions "empty rituals, trinkets and fossils", before a hushed "Amen" ushers in the anthemic chorus. Without a definitive god to worship, Mike turns to the heavens in search of answers. Needless to say, he doesn't find them. Instead, he laments that "the sun keeps burning [his] face". Combine his disillusionment with the fact that "sol invictus" is Latin for "unconquered sun", and you've got a deliciously ambivalent view of god and the heavens. Before the chorus reaches a climax, "Sol Invictus" jarringly returns to the melancholic piano chords with which it began. The band reached skyward for absolution, only to fall back down to earth.

Following this nihilistic beginning, *Sol Invictus* grows exponentially in scope. "Superhero" is

an outstanding rocker, its revved-up energy complemented by haunting vocals and ripples of Middle Eastern piano. "Sunny Side Up" sees Faith No More return to the velveteen lounge they explored on "Evidence" and "She Loves Me Not", with one of the strongest choruses on the album. In accordance with the *Sol Invictus* themes of uncertainty, this cosiness is fragmented by more of the minor piano chords that began the album.

Songs like the gorgeous "Matador" and the churning "Separation Anxiety" radiate with some of the band's best ideas to date; either could have featured on the band's opus, *Angel Dust*. But as previously stated, *Sol Invictus* isn't all nostalgia. "Rise of the Fall" sees Faith No More's hard rock complemented with lush Sicilian melodies found nowhere else in the band's catalogue. Similarly, two songs on *Sol Invictus* take a slow-burning approach not normally associated with the band. Album midpoint "Cone of Shame" starts quietly with a Southern Gothic riff before building to a sensational climax. Lead single "Motherfucker" also begins with burnt-out piano chords, only to ascend in due time to a euphoric chorus.

After repeated listens, I can say with confidence that *Sol Invictus* is a great album. Part of that will be due to the fact I am already a huge Faith No More fan, and a new record from these guys was automatically reason to celebrate. But the way in which *Sol Invictus* delivers both fan service and surprises, as well as a powerful image of modern disillusionment, all in under forty minutes, shows artistry. Some fans may lament the brevity of *Sol Invictus*, or perhaps its focus on atmosphere rather than riffs. Newcomers will likely be confused, akin to starting a series of novels several books in. I would point Faith No More virgins in the direction of the band's 1989 album, *The Real Thing*. Without prior knowledge of the band's discography, *Sol Invictus* won't mean nearly as much.

Regardless of your familiarity with them, Faith No More are back. *Sol Invictus* feels like a culmination of all the band has done before, and a taster of where they may yet go. It ends on an optimistic note with "From the Dead", suggesting that Faith No More are glad to be back. I hope this means that there is more to come.

Welcome home, my friends. ●

New to Faith No More? Check Out These Songs ...

"Epic"

(from *The Real Thing*)

You may already know this one. Before Kid Rock and Limp Bizkit made rap-rock a thing of ridicule, Faith No More were splicing the genres together seamlessly. "Epic" is a blast of late-80s cheesiness, complete with slap bass and a classical piano outro. Extra points for the music video.



"Stripsearch"

(from *Album of the Year*)

Amid the graveyard gloom of *Album of the Year* shines "Stripsearch", a soaring Portishead-inspired pop song. "Stripsearch" sees the band mix sweeping electronics with its usual rock instrumentation as Mike Patton gives one of his prettiest vocal performances ever.



"Star A.D."

(from *King for a Day ...*)

King for a Day ... Fool for a Lifetime saw Faith No More abandon all hope for commercial success, opting instead to do whatever they damn well pleased. "Star A.D." is the band at its most irreverent, tearing through sounds from the worlds of jazz and funk. The result is a song of hysterical grandeur, and one you'll keep coming back to.



"Midlife Crisis"

(from *Angel Dust*)

You may recognise this catchy tune from Tony Hawk's *Underground 2* or *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*. Perfectly suited to those games' urban environments, "Midlife Crisis" is a crunching hard-rock song with an anthemic chorus. The vocal layering in the last minute and a half is a touch of genius.





Final Fantasy Type-0 HD

» PS4 | DEVELOPED & PUBLISHED BY SQUARE ENIX

REVIEWED BY JAXON LANGLEY



Final Fantasy Type-0 was first unveiled at E3 in 2006, then finally released in Japan in 2011. Final Fantasy fans have been begging for a Western release of Type-0 ever since. Now, almost 4 years later — after much demand that director Hajime Tabata himself admitted he found “surprising” — we finally have Type-0 in glorious high definition on PS4 and Xbox One. But does it stack up to Final Fantasy standard? Many fans consider the series dead now after recent, less universally loved additions to the series’ library, but Type-0 may just be the game to restore some people’s faith.

The opening scene sees a wounded soldier limping through war-torn streets, encountering his fellow soldiers brutally murdered by the enemy. The soldier and his faithful Chocobo eventually suffer the same fate. It was a vivid moment that really stuck with me for the rest of the game. I’d never before seen as much blood in a Final Fantasy game as in that single scene. From then on, I knew Type-0 was going to be much darker than I had anticipated.

Type-0 finds itself in Orience, a vast land divided into four nations by the crystals of power that reside with them. The story follows

Class Zero, an elite group of young cadets from the school of magic in the Rubrum region retaliating against the Militesi Empire, which has invaded their region. The game boasts a massive 14 playable characters from Class Zero, all with their own loadouts of weapons and magic. This makes each character feel unique during gameplay; however, having so many hinders the depth and emotional connection to them that the series is often renowned for. During your free time between missions, you can discover some humorous and heartbreaking scenes with specific characters, but this still doesn’t really improve on the already thin and convoluted story.

In its visuals, the game is somewhat disappointing for a current-gen game considering how impressive other PSP remasters such as *Metal Gear Solid: Peace Walker* and *Kingdom Hearts: Birth by Sleep* have been. Akademia, the game’s central hub, seems to have had the largest overhaul in the whole game, now rich in colour and with impressive lighting and shadows; venturing outside into Orience makes the environments look incredibly dull in comparison. The character models for the playable characters have all been polished for HD, but often I found myself walking into

a town where the NPCs looked as though they had been forgotten about in the war of game development.

Type-0’s strongest attribute is its fast-paced, action-oriented gameplay. Most encounters in the world map last under a minute, which could be thanks to the newly offered Cadet difficulty as Japanese gamers complained the game was too difficult. While adding the game’s easier difficulty, Square Enix removed the co-operative mode from the remaster as this mode would have to be completely rebuilt and would have hindered the development time. It’s a shame, really, because there’s an excellent *Borderlands*-esque co-op mode of adventure and dungeon-crawling out there for Type-0 that we’ll never get to experience. Although, playing solo and switching from character to character in battle keeps the game from becoming repetitive.

I’m not much of a handheld gamer myself, but I might have enjoyed Type-0 more as a casual portable game on PSP. As a full-fledged rebuild for consoles it doesn’t quite live up to the standards I expect from a Final Fantasy game. If you’re still looking for a fun and addictive JRPG, I recommend giving Type-0 HD a chance; it could be the Final Fantasy game you’ve been waiting years for. ●

horoscope

Do you struggle with making basic life decisions? Worried about never bumping into your campus soulmate, or whether to eat two-minute noodles for every dinner this week? Fear not, chums, for I, Madame McMystery, have gazed deep into the cosmos to reveal the secrets the planetary alignments hold in store for you!

(Disclaimer: Madame McMystery is not responsible for any physical or emotional damage caused by the interpretation of her predictions and subsequent actions influenced by them).

Aries



Getting some study done this week will lead to unexpected gains in the romance department as flirty eye contact from across the library will lead to a steamy session in the reference section later in the day.

Taurus



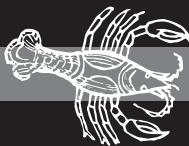
Your relationship goals will not be realised this week as your conversation skills are at an all-time low. Tact is a foreign concept to you, and any attempt at banter will end in a shit show. Best to keep safe and just put duct tape over your mouth for the remainder of the week.

Gemini



What fun! I see mischief and adventure in your near future. Jolly times will be had in the most unlikely of places and with the most unlikely of people, so keep an open mind!

Cancer



This week it's time for you to confess to your crimes and admit to your flatmates that you've been the one using the clothes-dryer when everyone's out at uni during the day. Expect passive aggressive conversation starters to continue cropping up over the next few weeks.

Leo



Using the classic "reeling in a fish from across the dance floor" move on a prospective love interest will work wonders this weekend. However, pretending that the fish in question is extremely heavy will not work out in your favour.

Virgo



You've been working hard lately, probably harder than you've worked your entire life, so you should be pleased to hear that the rewards for this work will be coming to you shortly when Neptune ascends into your star quadrant.

Libra



Your life has become entirely too predictable lately. Mix things up this week by wearing your pants on your torso and your shirts over your legs. A fun and unexpected stay at the hospital after tripping over your shirt sleeves might just be the excitement you're looking for.

Scorpio



You need to tone it down with the sass a little bit as this is not helping you in love, study or life in general. Chill out, sit back and try not to make fun of your friend's new haircut too much.

Sagittarius



You are a strong independent (insert ethnicity here) woman/man who don't need no woman/man. Sometimes it's hard to remember that, but always bear in mind that you are the bee's knees and one super cool dude.

Capricorn



The only two occasions where purchasing Canterbury Cream is an acceptable option are for a red card or when the alcohol store is actually completely out of every other type of liquor. You are not in either of these situations this week, so grab a crate of SoGo instead.

Aquarius



Diet sodas are disgusting. Stop pretending you enjoy them because it is time to make a life-altering decision this week. Water or full-sugared soda? The choice you make will lead to many repercussions further down the line.

Pisces



You will save someone from choking this week. Be ever vigilant and always on guard because not only will you be doing a good deed and be a totes legit campus hero, but you'll get an onlooker's number.

University Book Shop



LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a
\$30 BOOK VOUCHER
 From the University Book Shop

Work is Needed

Dearest Editor,

Recently the most popular thing to discuss when procrastinating in the library is our outrage at the depiction of the students of Otago university in today's social media. Yik Yak is ablaze with hate on Carol and that new (un-popular) hashtag has come along to prove we were not all binge drinking rowdy animals who defecate on the streets. Discussions are up and I'm interested. What makes the media think they can be so one sided? Oh, the fact that they're the media, no duh. Kings among peasants all of them. But this stereotyping of the student life style is offensive and uncreative. Not all student flats are as busted up as the Beehive's, and Hyde, while indeed being the most notorious party, only happens once a year. Watching both reports about Scarfie life on the TV, I was very disappointed there was no mention of the gc students who voluntarily cleaned up that street, and also no consideration of an issue I consider bigger than Carol getting no work done- the demeaning and wallet squeezing treatment of Dunedin landlords to students, especially in areas close to the University. I say the media needs to check themselves before they wreck themselves or there'll be hell to pay.

Jessica Thompson Carr.

This is One of Many

Dear Editor

After reading the "news" article about University of Otago students drinking "culture" and experiencing what the majority of students get up to. It's clear from my view, there is a far more constructive University of Otago community than what is made out to be. The clubs and societies at the university, of which more than half of the total number of students enrolled, regularly host events that harmoniously integrate cultures, beliefs, sports, political views, and various forms of art. There are approximately 140 clubs and societies of which any student can join and be involved. They vary in size from 10 people up to 1000. When groups of like-minded people put their heads together, using team work and organisational skills, one should not be surprised at what is achieved not only by the groups.

However, the accomplishments of these groups are not recorded well in the mainstream media. Rather, it is preferred to pigeonhole students as over-consumers of alcohol who exhibit anti-social behaviour. Misinformed stereotypes of students serve nothing more than to take away due credit from the vast majority of students, most of whom delicately balance their studies with everyday lives. I would like to know what the purpose of the article was. An explanation may go some way to inform the nation of the reason why mainstream media portrays New Zealand University students the way it has.

George McLenaghan
 Clubs Development Officer
OUSA Recreation

Yes, Fuckwits Exist

Dearest Fuckwits.

You really made my night when I saw the four of you, driving around Dunedin in your poorly modified Mazda with the "Brum/pish" exhaust. I was overjoyed to see you slow down as I was sure that you were all enlightened individuals, with a pleasant outlook on life, and I treasure the opportunity to converse with such fantastic representatives of the human race. My suspicions were confirmed

when you shouted the phrase "Fuck, Faggot" at me, a phrase I have heard before by many of your ilk. I applaud you for your creative use of grammar, but not your egg throwing skills which, much like your penises, were a bit too short to be effective. I am perplexed as to why you drove off so suddenly to the backwater shithole you call home, but I assume you had other things to do, like robbing the elderly and skinning all the puppies you murdered. The next time you and your homophobic brethren are in town I suggest you drive your shitty car into the sea, and make this world a better place for the rest of us.

Not A Fuckwit

Yay for Capping Show!

Jerome,

Hope this finds its way to you!!!

Just wanted to say what a FANTASTIC show last night Beautifully choreographed Nice balance of 'blue' and 'not blue' A great bunch of seriously talented young people Outstanding front of stage band – loved the singers!

The finale made me proud to be a part of the place – brought a tear to the eye of an aging Capping Concert/student/staff alumnus!!!

Congratulate them all from me ...

Will promote it heavily though my lectures this week. All the best for a great season

John

The Bars Were Broke

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you concerning the last week's 'Sunday' episode. As a Dunedin student I agree there is a drinking problem, yet I believe the segment presented a one sided argument. The University has played an active role in the closing of three student pubs leaving students with the choice of either drinking on the streets or venturing to bars far from the student area. In many cases the antisocial behavior is committed by visitors with no respect for our homes. These Isolated incidents have created unwarranted animosity towards the entire student population. Dunedin is reliant

on students economically and culturally, and I would invite the individuals who have raised concerns to work with us, instead of antagonising us on national television. In regards to the poor treatment of flats in student areas, it should be noted that the majority of flats are in shocking condition and left unattended by absentee landlords who charge inflated prices.

As a student, I love Dunedin. However, the article on Sunday has unfairly tarnished our reputation and will not fix the drinking culture. The problem is nationwide and it unfair for TVNZ to solely highlight the actions of a select few students.

Ben Cochrane

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be 200 words or fewer. Deadline is Thursday at 5pm. Send letters to critic@critic.co.nz, post them to PO Box 1436, Dunedin, or drop into the Critic office. All letters must include full contact details, even if you don't want these printed. Letters of a serious nature directly addressing a specific person or group will not be published under a pseudonym, except in extraordinary circumstances negotiated with the Editor. Critic reserves the right to edit, abridge or decline letters without explanation. We don't fix the spelling or grammar in letters. If a writer looks stupid, it's because they are.



NOTICES

- The forthcoming exhibition at Special Collections, University of Otago, Dunedin, is **Black + White + Grey: The Life + Work of Eric Gill + Robert Gibbings**

5 June to 21 August 2015

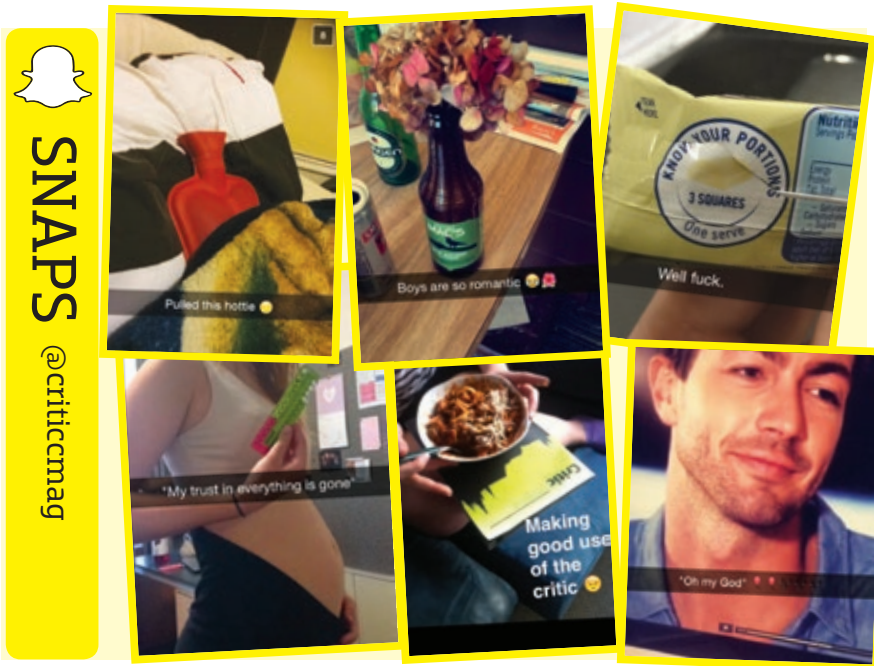
De Beer Gallery, Special Collections, 1st floor, Central University Library

Hours: 830 am to 500 pm: Monday to Friday

My dance colleague and I have been accepted to perform our duet at the Undercover Artist Festival in Brisbane, June 26-27. We were given a grant from Access Arts Brisbane, however still need to do some fundraising. So I am running a Boosted crowd funding campaign, where you can make a donation to help us reach our target:

<http://bit.ly/1b0LkNX>

OR if you love cheese rolls we are selling them for \$6 for half a dozen and \$15 for 3 dozen!



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SCEPTIC SCHISM

Conspiracies

BY WEE DOUBT

David Icke has convinced hundreds of thousands of people that the world is run by something called the "Babylonian Brotherhood", a race of seven-foot-tall reptilian aliens who squeeze into human-sized suits and rule the world. They have brain-washed humans into believing they are human in order to make them their slaves. They also eat children and drink human blood to prolong their lives. Icke also believes the moon is a constructed, hollowed-out fake planetoid that beams mind-controlling waves to Earth.

I have a friend who believes in Icke's lizard theory. Her justification is that the people he says are lizards — like Queen Elizabeth, George W. Bush, and Pope John Paul II — "look kind of reptilian". True, but then most old people have a bit of a lizard look about them. If you look at the previous pope with a lizard in mind, then, sure, he looks kind of snakey.

I watched a YouTube video from a channel called "Red Pill Philosophy", which promised "scientific proof" that David Icke is right about our reptilian overlords. The "startling and sobering evidence" includes that we evolved from reptiles and that the "primitive" part of our brain at the base of the neck is often referred to as the "reptilian brain". It is where our baser responses, such as aggression, fear and hunger, come from. So, Red Pill concludes, Icke may have been wrong about the reptiles being aliens, but could it really be a coincidence that scientists happen to use the word reptile to describe our less desirable brain functions? He thinks not. A linchpin of conspiracy theories is a refusal to believe that similarities between unrelated things are mere coincidences.

If reptilian humanoids really do, as Icke says, project "an artificial sense of self on the world that humans believe", then nothing we observe could possibly refute his theory. By this "logic", however, I could make up any theory — like some plants are dogs who can't bark or move and are indistinguishable from real plants because of a magic spell — and it also couldn't be refuted. How do we know that some people aren't lizards perfectly disguised as humans? We don't. It doesn't mean that it is a good argument. Sometimes the wackiest arguments, like David Icke's reptilian overlords, can be convincing because of their absurdity. Why would he say something so strange unless it were true?



crush on campus

Theatre Student Wanted

BY PIPPIN BOOTS

Each week Critic wants to hear from you if you're struggling to approach the man or woman of your dreams. Does she always sit on that front row seat and give the lecturer far more attention than you're comfortable with? Does he stroll past your window each morning and your only attempts at getting his attention have been taking a little longer to put clothes on?

Flick your stories to crush@critic.co.nz

Dear ... Ok so I forgot your name, but you gave me a fright when you tapped me on the shoulder after that seminar - you saw how I jumped.

You said that the boots I designed were awesome and we got to talking about how you are a Theatre Design Student from the States. It turns out you're not taking any Theatre Studies papers ... I've used every contact I know and nobody seems to know who you are.

You kinda threw me a lot that day, guys don't tend to come up and talk to me, but we had a really good conversation about Pippin on Broadway and it was interrupted by my friend. I'd really like to talk some more and carry on that conversation ... it sounded like you're on an exchange but if you're still here, find me again.

Let's finish that conversation.

Yours,

Pippin Boots

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May 2015

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DAVID CLARK
There is Still a Way to Go
 BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

New Zealand has changed a lot since I was a kid. When I was a kid, homosexuality was illegal, and those who engaged in "homosexual acts" risked getting locked up. Kids who didn't fit gendered stereotypes were bullied mercilessly. There were no education programmes around sexual orientation in schools, and pretty much every kid thought "gay" was an acceptable insult. I did.

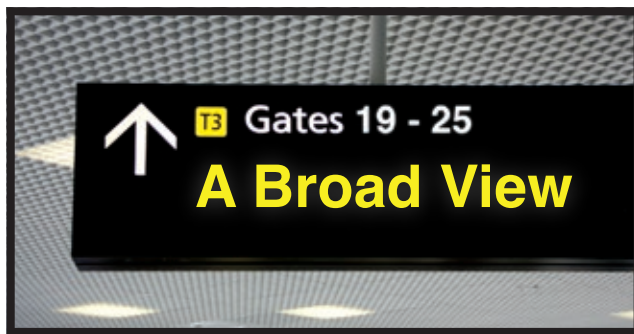
Thank goodness, society is changing. New Zealand's growing maturity has been reflected in law changes: first through the legalisation of homosexuality in the 80s, and then with the introduction of civil unions. Two years ago, I had the opportunity to speak during the parliamentary debate in support of marriage equality — now law in our country.

I've been privileged along the way to have gay friends who took the time to educate me. In the 1990s, I trained as a church minister alongside lesbian women, and after that I worked alongside the (then) only out gay clergyman in the Presbyterian Church. Part of what made them terrific colleagues and friends was the prejudice they had encountered and triumphed over. That said, after hearing their stories, I wouldn't wish their experiences on anyone. Despite a message of grace and acceptance — and plenty of interesting scriptural relationship models (think: polygamy for starters) — too often the church is a hard place for LGBT people to be.

The churches aren't alone in harbouring contemporary prejudice. Recent news that New Zealand sportspeople are more likely to keep their sexual identity hidden than those overseas is a timely reminder if we needed one. There is work to be done across society to ensure every kid grows up comfortable in their own skin.

Casual homophobia needs to be challenged. On tertiary campuses, I seldom hear the racist slurs that were once a part of everyday language. Yet too often I still hear the word "gay" used in a pejorative sense — without irony. This must change.

So while things are getting better, there is still a way to go. In my view, acceptance of the right of all consenting adults to love whomever they choose can't come quickly enough.



The Intriguing Creatures
 BY PRZEMEK WINSZCZYK

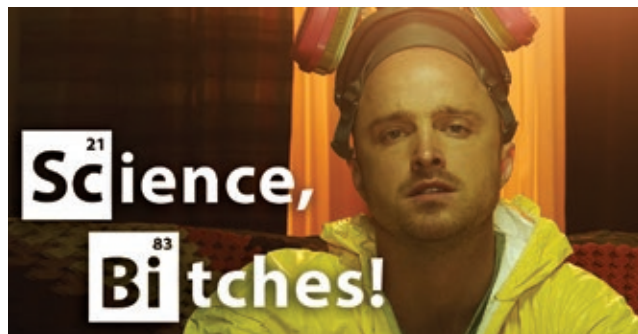
A Broad View is written by different international students each week who wish to share their impressions of their time here or unique experiences. Email critic@critic.co.nz if you are an international student wanting to tell your tale.

Kiwis are intriguing creatures. Everyone knows what they look like, everyone adores their vulnerability and cuteness, but not everyone has the chance to actually see real kiwis in the wilderness. The same can be said about the other Kiwis. New Zealanders are cheerful, easygoing and helpful. They warmly welcome foreigners to their home country. Yet, I sense that these feelings are only skin-deep. In Europe, Scandinavians tend to hide their true personalities behind a curtain of silence, while Kiwis seem to present themselves as extremely positive and friendly people, burying their dislikes and deeper feelings in their hearts. A short stay in New Zealand is not enough time to gain the trust needed to explore those parts of Kiwis' souls.

Another feature of Kiwis' personalities that struck me is the lack of culture when it comes to sharing alcohol. If asked about it, most Kiwis defend themselves by blaming the high cost of alcohol. However, there are several countries in Eastern Europe where prices of alcohol, in comparison to average wages, are relatively similar to New Zealand and usually no one is left without booze at the party. Of course, this is a matter of attitude and stereotypes about high alcohol prices, because Kiwis are more than keen to share everything else with a friend in need.

Nonetheless, New Zealand is a paradise on earth, one of the few countries that is free from terrorist threats. It is a country where metal detectors at the airport are sometimes optional; a country where an acquaintance of your friend, whom you have never met before, leaves you the keys to his apartment beneath the doormat because he had an urgent trip to Palmerston North.

New Zealand is a country where an Australian property developer gives you a lift in his Porsche Cayenne when you are hitchhiking. Above all else, New Zealand is the country in which becoming Middle Earth has nationwide acceptance. The spirit of Tolkien will endure in Aotearoa, and one day the real Minas Tirith will be constructed near Twizel in the Mackenzie District.



The Retreating Glaciers

BY EMMA LODES



Nellie Bly

BY FINBARR NOBLE

The Franz Joseph and Fox glaciers are must-sees on a road trip of the South Island. They're each about 12 kilometres long and unique in that their icy tongues descend through lush rainforest, blue-white enigmas in a green realm. Although Franz Josef Glacier exhibits a natural cycle of advance and retreat, it has undergone an unusually hasty retreat since 2008, attributed by most to global warming.

What you may not know, though, is that both the Franz Joseph and Fox glaciers sit directly on top of the Alpine Fault, which in turn forms the plate boundary between the Pacific and Australian plates. The Australian Plate, which forms the western margin of the Southern Alps, is simultaneously subducting and moving north relative to the Pacific Plate, which is being pushed up and is moving south. The Southern Alps themselves are formed by the Australian Plate shoving the Pacific Plate up. The relative motion of the plates is 37 millimetres a year — a figure that seems very small but that can do real damage over geological time.

These days, geologists use information from global sea-floor spreading rates, satellite geodetic data and aerial photos to determine the plates' rate of motion. Since the Pacific-Australian plate boundary is mostly covered in rugged terrain and vegetation, it's relatively difficult to spot small-scale evidence of the plates' movement in the field.

Here's where we come back to the glaciers. The rock underneath the retreating Franz Joseph and Fox glaciers is being rapidly (well, according to geologic time) exposed as the ice melts, and the exposed surface is smooth alpine schist marked with handy ice scours. Back in 1979, J. Adams used the ice scours to determine the plate boundary's rate of motion — still one of the only examples of someone finding small-scale evidence in the field. Ten years later, R.J. Norris and A.F. Cooper used the same ice scours to determine the slip rates on small faults in the glacial valleys.

Geologists are still using this exposed, striated surface to understand the motion of the Pacific-Australian plate boundary — it's as if the glaciers have lifted a curtain to reveal a geologists' playground. With more knowledge of the Alpine Fault's slip rate, scientists can better predict earthquakes on the South Island's West Coast (we're due for one soon!) So although glacial retreat may be tragically indicative of climate change, geologists are making the best of what the glaciers have left behind.

Much like Leslie Knope, Nellie Bly was a pioneer in her field and a woman before her time. She created a whole new brand of investigative journalism known as "stunt journalism". She was also the first person to figure out that if you went undercover as a journalist you could actually find out a whole lot more than just asking people straight up.

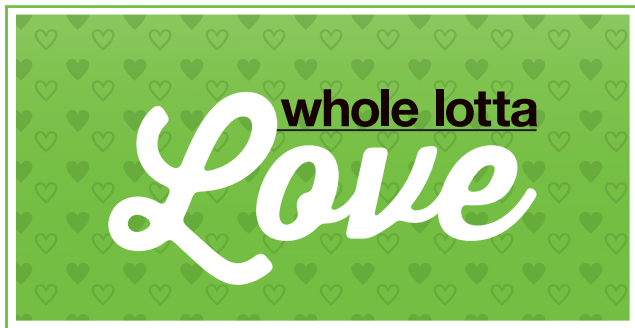
Born in 1864, Nellie Bly was the Hunter S. Thompson of the nineteenth century, or more accurately Hunter S. was the Nellie Bly of the twentieth. She had a rough start in life when her impoverished family fled to Pittsburgh after a few unsatisfactory marriages.

In Pittsburgh, Nellie worked to support her mother and siblings. Pittsburgh's most popular journalist at the time was a man called Erasmus Wilson. Nellie happened to read an aggressively misogynistic (by today's standards) column of his where he wrote that women belonged at home cooking and cleaning and that working women were "a m-strosity". Nellie, as a working woman herself, didn't brook no shit like that and wrote a letter to the paper expressing her feelings in no uncertain terms. The editor of the Pittsburgh Dispatch was impressed by her spirit and offered her a job.

However, despite her obvious talent, she was confined to "women's" stories and forced to write about flower shows and fashion. But, much like Cyprus Hill, Nellie wasn't going out like that and fucked off to Mexico to expose the violent oppression of the people and the censorship of the media at the hands of their local dictator. The regime didn't take kindly to that and Nellie had to flee back to the US where she was again put on flower show duty.

No-one puts Nellie in the corner, however, so she left the paper for the New York World. As her first assignment/job interview, she infiltrated the infamous Women's Lunatic Asylum by faking insanity. There she experienced the conditions first hand, including freezing baths, full body restraints, rat infestation, and physical and psychological abuse. Her undercover report caused a sensation and led to widespread reforms in the care of the mentally ill.

In 1888 Nellie suggested to her editor that she attempt to turn the fictional *Around the World in Eighty Days* into reality. Carrying only the clothes on her back, her necessary toiletries and £200 in a bag around her neck, Nellie completed the journey in only 72 days, trumping even Phileas Fogg and proving you don't need a cock to write good copy.



IDAHOT 2015

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

The month of May is important for two reasons. 17 May is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT). May 2015 is also our first national HIV testing month.

IDAHOT represents an annual landmark to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, opinion leaders and local authorities to the alarming situation faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and all those who do not conform to majority sexual and gender "norms".

17 May is celebrated in more than 130 countries, including 37 where same-sex acts are illegal, with 1600 events reported from 1280 organisations in 2014. These mobilisations unite millions of people in support of the recognition of human rights for all, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

For more information, go to dayagainsthomophobia.org/

For IDAHOT 2015, the Queer Support Coordinator is making badges and you can get yourself one for a gold coin donation. The colourful badges say awesome things like "Gender Is Not Binary", "Ask Me About My Pronouns" and "Embrace Diversity". Pick up your badge from Monday 11 May from OUSA's main reception, the Recreation Centre reception or the Student Support Centre. Take a selfie with your badge on 17 May and be in to win a PRIZE. To enter, post your selfie on the OUSA IDAHOT Facebook event page.

As quoted on the New Zealand Aids Foundation (NZAF) website, nearly 80% of HIV diagnoses are among gay and bi guys, but why, you ask? Well, gay and bi guys have much more anal sex than straight guys. You are 18 times more likely to contract HIV through unprotected anal sex than unprotected vaginal sex. There are two reasons for this. The cells in the arse are much more susceptible to HIV than cells in the vagina. In addition, both semen and rectal mucosa (the lining of the arse) carry more HIV than vaginal fluid.

May is National HIV Testing Month. Knowing your HIV status means you can get access to treatment and support, as well prevent yourself from passing it on to others. Using condoms and lube is the most effective way to prevent HIV. You can get FREE condoms from the Recreation Centre and the Student Support Centre. For more information and to book a free and confidential HIV rapid test, go to www.nzaf.org.nz.

Till next time,

OUSA Student Support Centre



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Love is blind

Critic's infamous blind date column brings you weekly shutdowns, hilariously mismatched pairs, and the occasional hookup. Each week, we lure two singletons to Di Lusso, ply them with food and alcohol, then wait for their reports to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email critic@critic.co.nz. But be warned – if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a Critic writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.

Cameron

He wears a man-bun, is mighty punctual, and fancies his lecturer. Cute.

I showed up to Di Lusso on time. The bartender told me, "Oh yeah, the dates usually show up about half an hour late." Oh, okay. I sat sheepishly on a bar stool, eavesdropping on a girls-night where everyone was complimenting each other far too much. I wasn't really nervous, but needed a cigarette a lot, and so prayed that he was a smoker.

The date showed up after fifteen minutes. He was really cute; not entirely my type, but I certainly wouldn't throw him out of bed either. He seemed quiet so I ordered the highest percentage beers available. I sat down and immediately said, "So, tell me everything about yourself!" Tone badly set – there's no chance of appearing casual/cool after that intro. He didn't seem to mind though; we chatted about things, one of them being the substantial number of notches on his belt. He complained, "I've only hooked up with seven guys since I got back down this year, I have quietened down so much!" Okay, so I'd slept with fewer people in my entire life than he had in the last three months. Felt morally superior for about 0.3 seconds, but then remembered how earlier that day I was daydreaming in class about my lecturer slapping his dick across my face: I was in no position to judge.

He began to open up; we talked about music, films and respecting the R.A.P.E. acronym on dates (don't talk about religion, abortion, politics and exes), all of which I brought up as I got drunker, whoops! Oh well, we were getting along well enough.

He said he hadn't been to many flat parties so I took him along to one. I kept forgetting his name and forgetting that he wasn't a smoker (I tried to force a Holiday Menthol to his lips at least 15 times), but to his credit he did keep getting cuter as the night wore on (or maybe credit to the good folks at Country Cask Wines). Despite this, there really wasn't much chemistry between us; I snapped him checking his Grindr profile towards the end of the night, which sealed the non-deal, and we ended the night going our separate ways.

Mitchell

Says he has a killer gaydar, but that's not hard if you love Grindr so much that you stare at it throughout a date. Awkward.

Walking to Di Lusso, I was a mix of nervousness, confidence and adrenaline. I arrived ten minutes late and spotted my date straightaway, thanks to my killer gaydar. He was tall, slim and sported a man-bun.

We decided to sit outside and, as a person who prefers dressing minimally, it wasn't the best idea. For not having had any alcohol so far, we somehow talked a lot. At one point, he asked whether I recognised him from his recent article. I did, and excitedly referred to him as "that faggy little kid from Wellington". I realised my faux pas and hoped he wasn't offended.

As the night got colder, we moved back inside. He told me to blow the candle (I forget why) and that was the only blowing-related activity that night. We then sat next to the fireplace where things got more comfortable. We discovered that we had many similar interests; it almost seemed like I was talking to a version of myself in another body.

The alcohol and the discovery that we both liked the same shit instantly made him my new best friend. The conversation became candid and, as much as I wanted to impress my date, I let it slip that I've been lacking party invites. Not long after, he texted his flatmate and there was a party for us to go to.

We first dropped by his flat to grab some warm clothes. He showed me his M.I.A. paintings and suggested we chill on his bed. However, I didn't want to risk my narcolepsy ruining the night. At the party, we met his friends and they seemed nice. I kept finding myself checking Grindr subconsciously, then realising it wasn't ok. He caught me once.

Half an hour later, we left for Maccas so I could get some food and catch up on the latest Survivor episode. We added each other on Facebook and called it a night. Who knew two gay guys could actually just be friends.

Overall, it was good, platonic fun. Cheers Critic!



OUSA President's Column

The hot topic of conversation this week was TVNZ's *Sunday* programme that aired on May 10th. The piece grossly misrepresented student culture. On the whole, Otago students are hardworking, creative and make a significant contribution to economic and community life in Dunedin.

The segment was nothing more than a pre-determined tabloid smear on students and the University. *Sunday* does do some excellent stories at times, but this was not one of them. *Sunday* used YouTube footage, information from attack bloggers and selective interviews to substantiate the assertions made in the segment instead of credible evidence and analysis.

I was interviewed for the *Sunday* segment for almost two hours. There was heated exchanges about student culture and alcohol policy. It was clear from the line of questioning *Sunday* wanted to vilify students. Attempts to outline statistics, research and provide in depth answers were scorned at and "Yes" or "No" answers were demanded throughout the interview.

We discussed OUSA's take on a proposed liquor ban, went into great detail about how the

statistics demonstrate continual improvements in recent years and gave multiple examples of the positive activities Otago students are involved in. OUSA's local alcohol policy submission was also discussed.

The fact *Sunday* did not use the interview in their final segment demonstrates they were not interested in a balanced story and had pre-determined the content.

Most students enjoy themselves while respecting others. The vibrant student culture we have is what makes the Otago experience so unique and great. Media stories, like the *Sunday* segment, infer that a vibrant student culture undermines Otago's quality of education. Nothing could be further from the truth. At 89%, Otago has the best degree completion rate of all New Zealand Universities. Moreover, at Otago, significantly fewer first years drop out of University (1 in 10 on average) compared to the national average (1 in 5). This means that Otago University, as well as being home to the best student experience in New Zealand, is also the place where your chances of academic success are incredibly high.

I recommend checking out the "What if? Dunedin" blog and searching for the entries about students and Otago University. The blog is a cesspit of muck raking, name calling, and hatred. I would not normally read such rubbish, but after delving deeper into the information the

Sunday producers had, it is clear the blog site was an information source for *Sunday*. Those behind the blog put public pressure on Monkey Bar to close, and for some unknown reason they hate students. In most cities, young people are welcomed with open arms. The "What if? Dunedin" lot (of which it does not appear there are many) are intent on ridding Dunedin of students and sending Dunedin into the dark ages.

OUSA, along with others, will be working together to continue to achieve a decline in incidents of unacceptable behaviour. The challenge is to develop new and innovative ways to minimise harm and antisocial behaviour. Unfortunately, there is no silver bullet. Hard work and coordination between all actors including students, landlords, the University, the residential colleges, and the police is required.

The many present and current students that have publicly demonstrated their support for our great student culture has been heartening to see. There is a petition calling for TVNZ to apologise and groups formed to create a video that shows the real student experience in Dunedin. You can sign the petition here:

<https://goo.gl/lbQpK7>



Paul Hunt
president@ousa.orgnz

OUSA presents the
2015 University of Otago

BLUES & GOLDS AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN UNTIL FRIDAY 7 AUGUST, 4PM

Come and see the Clubs Development team at the OUSA Recreation Centre, 84 Albany St for all enquiries.

For more info, check out bgawards.ousa.org.nz

What's the haps with **ousa recreation**

Free Hot Oaty Brek!

Winter has made a grand entrance so we will now be adding porridge to the menu at our FREE breakfasts! If your feeling the chills (or the effects of an empty wallet) come along to the Recreation Centre between 9 and 10am weekdays

1/2 Year Squash Memberships on Sale!

We're about half way through the year so we've slashed our memberships to half price! For full access to our courts (as a student) it's only \$52.50. For more details come talk to the Rec. Centre team.

ousa student support

FLATTING WEEK 2015

This Week! 18-22nd May

On Tuesday we will announce the OUSA Best Landlord awards! Then on Wednesday and Thursday we'll be running a Flattening Expo in the Main Common Room with loads of prizes and giveaways, and free flattening clinics! Be sure to check it out.

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